CHAPTER XXXVI

Mayflower Hill

SUBLTANTIAL and lasting as were the educational achievements of President Johnson, they were indeed overshadowed by his supreme accomplishment of moving the College to Mayflower Hill. Never before in the history of American colleges had a small institution of higher education lifted itself by its own bootstraps from a site where it had nestled for more than a century to a hilltop two miles away. Great universities had moved. Columbia had done so twice. Rochester had sought a new site beside the lake. But when some small college, like Wake Forest, had left its old environs it had done so on the millions provided by a single benefactor.

Although he had much loyal and devoted assistance, it was the faith, the determination, and the unremitting zeal of Franklin Johnson that assured the eventual success of a plan which at first seemed to many persons fantastically impossible. "Johnson's wild dream," "Johnson's folly," "Johnson's farce," were some of the opprobrious terms applied. When the project was started, no one saw around the corner the nation's worst financial depression, and just around the next corner a disastrous world war. Seven years elapsed before ground was broken for the first building and twenty-two long years went by before all classes and all housing on the old campus were finally abandoned. Every friend of Franklin Johnson—and they are numbered in the thousands—rejoiced that he could live to see the task accomplished. After he and Mrs. Johnson built their new home on Mayflower Hill Drive, he kept almost daily watch of the new campus developments, saw each new building erected brick by brick, personally supervised landscaping and tree planting, and as long as his health permitted was on hand for the annual gathering of students on clean-up day in May—a day which the students themselves insisted upon naming Johnson Day. If one would see Franklin Johnson's monument, he has only to go to Colby's new home on Mayflower Hill and look around.

Why did the Colby Trustees decide to move the College? It is well known that the compelling official reason was provided by a survey of the four Maine colleges conducted in 1929, but there is more to the story than that. Before that survey had even been started, at least one member of the Board of Trustees had seriously made the suggestion that the College seek a new site. For three different men the claim is made of first making the proposal. Ernest Gruening, former Governor of Alaska and now its U. S. Senator, was in 1929 Editor of the Portland, Maine, Evening News. On May 15, 1929, he wrote to President Johnson, "The College ought to be removed from its present location. It would be economy in the long run to abandon the present cramped quarters. There must be ample acreage across the river or anywhere in the surrounding country."
Johnson himself often said that it was Henry Hilton who had convinced him of the necessity of moving the College. He did not say that Hilton first suggested the plan, but that it was Hilton's insistence that made Johnson sure the move must be made. Detailed correspondence between Johnson and Herbert Philbrick, 1897, then a dean at Northwestern University, convinces this historian that Philbrick was the first person in the whole Colby family of trustees, faculty, alumni, and students to make the serious proposal to abandon the old campus.

Although both were residents of the Chicago area, Henry Hilton and Herbert Philbrick did not know each other until their mutual friend Franklin Johnson brought them together. After the death of Johnson's college chum, Dana Hall, Hilton had become the leading Chicago partner in the publishing firm of Ginn and Company, and Johnson had come to know him well and to prize his business ability. Hilton was a trustee of Dartmouth College, but with President Hopkins' consent he withdrew from that board to become a trustee of Colby to help his friend Frank Johnson make it a truly great college.

What are the facts which justify Herbert Philbrick's claim to have made the initial suggestion that the College move? In 1927 Philbrick had been elected an alumni trustee of the College, and his long sustained graduate interest was now heightened by his official position on the Board. That summer he spoke to the Waterville Rotary Club on "Our Boys and Girls and the Colleges." After the meeting, he conversed with Herbert Wadsworth, then the trustee chairman, and with George Otis Smith and Carroll Perkins, also members of the Board. After commenting that, in his opinion, the affairs of the College could well be administered by a committee of the faculty during President Roberts' illness, Philbrick said, "The real problem, however, facing the College is that of a new campus." One of his listeners remarked that, had he known Philbrick held such an opinion, he would have opposed his election to the Board.

It is interesting to note that Herbert Philbrick was Franklin Johnson's choice for president, just as Johnson was Philbrick's choice. When Johnson learned that Philbrick would not consider the position, he held for many months to his contention that someone other than himself should be chosen. But, importuned from all sides, he finally gave in. Before making the decision, however, Johnson conferred with Philbrick in Chicago. Of that interview Philbrick has said, "When our meeting was ending, Frank told me that he was convinced the College must have a new campus, that until I spoke of it that matter had not been presented to him before, and that he would now undertake it."

Johnson was elected president in November, 1928. On January 20, 1929, he wrote to Philbrick:

I presented to Herbert Wadsworth first, and later to other members of the Board, a proposal to consider a long term program for the development of the College. This involved, fundamentally, the proposal to change the location. I found all of them interested, some of them timid, but on the whole willing to think in terms of a century rather than a decade. We went so far as to go into the country and look over three possible sites. All agreed on the impossibility of developing the College on its present site. You suggested you would come to the spring meeting and suggest such a proposal. I would be glad to have you do so.

Philbrick replied that he could not attend the April meeting, but he hoped Johnson would strongly urge moving the College. He said, "I am interested to
know that you consider my suggestion favorably and have spoken of it to Mr. Wadsworth and others of the Board. While I realize the difficulties involved, I don't see any other way out. That is a way which leads to a big future."

That Johnson was depending upon Philbrick to urge a plan of removal is shown by a letter from Johnson on March 7, 1929, a few days before a planned Colby meeting in Chicago. Johnson said, "For the Colby meeting on March 14, Herbert Wadsworth will come out and Mr. Brown, who is in charge of the development fund campaign. I hope you will have opportunity to talk with Herbert about the policy of transferring the College to another site."

For some reason, perhaps because of Philbrick's absence, Johnson did not make the intended proposal at the April meeting. He always had an excellent sense of timing, and it is more likely that he saw strategic advantage in delaying the proposal until June than that he held back because Philbrick was not at hand to present the case. On May 15 he wrote to Philbrick:

Everything seems to be set for making the proposal to the Trustees in June to move the College to a more suitable location. I shall ask the Board to postpone the decision as to where to place the building until a committee to be appointed has canvassed the whole situation and made recommendation to the Board. We shall not be in a position to force Trustees to a decision in June. The proposal I shall make will prevent the mistake of locating the building at once on the present campus and will give us opportunity to see what we can do to provide a new site.

Then Johnson revealed a development that will even now surprise many persons who think the final choice of Mayflower Hill sprang from Waterville interests. Johnson wrote: "In the meantime Walter Wyman is securing options on 1500 acres of land on the ridge between Waterville and Oakland. He is very much in favor of moving, and in his characteristic manner proposed that, if I wish, he will go ahead to this extent."

When the Trustees assembled in annual meeting on June 14, 1929, on the eve of Johnson's inauguration as president, Johnson did indeed present his proposal, and was strongly supported by Philbrick. The new president linked his plan with the preliminary report of the Survey of Maine Colleges, which had just been received. Just as Johnson had previously indicated, he did not ask the Board for a vote to move the College. What he actually did is revealed in the formal record of the meeting:

A preliminary report of a committee on Survey of Maine Educational Institutions, with particular reference to Colby College, was presented by President Johnson. After discussion by several members of the Board, on motion of Mr. Guptill it was voted that a committee consisting of the Chairman of the Board, the President of the College, and four others be appointed by the Chairman to investigate and report at a future meeting on the advisability of changing the location of the campus or development of the present campus.

That important committee consisted of Wadsworth, Johnson, Wyman, Bassett, Philbrick, and Padelford.

What was the survey report which seemed to play such an important part in prompting that vote? The survey had been conducted as the result of urging
by President Harold S. Boardman of the University of Maine. Believing that there should be a systematic attempt to discover the present facilities and the future needs of Maine colleges, in relation to the state's general need in higher education, Boardman persuaded the authorities at Maine's three private colleges (Bowdoin, Colby, and Bates) to join with the University in promoting such a study. On the recommendation of Governor Brewster, the Maine Development Commission voted in December, 1927, to invite the University of Maine “to undertake in cooperation with the commission an economic educational survey as to the probable call for higher education in the State of Maine in the next ten years, and how that call can best be met.” Dr. R. J. Leonard of Teachers College, Columbia University, was engaged as consultant, and it was agreed that other members of the same staff would be employed to conduct the actual visits to the institutions. Consequently Professors O'Rear, Evenden, and Cottrell of Teachers College made the detailed inspections. Dr. O. S. Lutes, Dean of the School of Education at the University of Maine served as Executive Director, and his assistant was Ermo H. Scott, now President of the State Teachers College at Farmington, but at that time a student at the University.

When the survey report appeared, its comments on Colby College were so alarming that, resentful as many Colby persons were of the statements, they had to be taken seriously. After a dozen pages of factual information about the Colby plant, the report said:

The physical plant of Colby College is very meager, inadequate, and poorly planned. If Colby is to continue to offer high quality collegiate work, the limitations which the site and present buildings put upon its program of service must be removed. It is the opinion of the surveyors that the present plant is so far below the general standards for a college of Colby's standing that the site should be changed before any more capital is invested in the present plant, most of which has given service for a long period. In a relatively few years more than half of the present buildings must be replaced. It will cost no more to build these buildings on a new site than on the present one. Our recommendation is, then, that Colby College should move to a larger and more desirable site.²

In July, 1929, the special committee of the Colby Trustees met in Waterville. President Johnson was absent, recovering from an automobile accident in Washington County. Here is Herbert Philbrick's account of that committee meeting.

We went first to the old campus. Norman Bassett, who was sure the old campus had such possibilities for usefulness that it should not be abandoned, took charge of the inspection. He was very earnest and thorough, a bit emotional but wonderful. The back campus he pictured with new buildings and fine landscaping. After lunch we were directed by Walter Wyman, who took us to the Mayflower Hill site. He visualized the possibilities. It was a beautiful day and our imaginations jumped our financial and other difficulties. We adjourned to the Elmwood Hotel for a meeting and a vote. I think Wyman and I were the only ones who from the first favored moving the College. Norman interested me all the time. It was hard for him to vote for the move, but he “had to,” as he said. The vote was unanimous to recommend that the College move to a new site.
The committee made their report at a special meeting of the Board in August, 1929, but, at Johnson's request the Trustees delayed definite action until June, 1930. In a letter to Philbrick, Johnson explained the strategy of delay.

I hope we shall not only have the options, but actually own the land for our new site within a short time. The Trustees were ready to vote to move at our November meeting, but I asked them not to do so. We need to call the attention of the enterprise to the public in the way that will give us the best initial start.

That letter should not lead the reader to conclude that Johnson was already committed to the Mayflower Hill site. He favored it at that time because it was the only site about which anything definite had been done. Walter Wyman had already taken options on the land. Later events led Johnson to maintain a judicious neutrality until a majority of the Board were ready to decide the precise location.

At the annual meeting on June 13, 1930, the Trustees of Colby College passed the most critical vote made since the founding of the institution. In the minutes of the meeting appear the following statements:

The Committee on Campus Location and New Development reported in favor of moving the College to a more eligible and adequate location. After discussion by Wadsworth, Murray, Johnson, Philbrick, Lawrence, Gurney, Seaverns, and Wyman, it was moved by Mr. Guptill, seconded and duly voted, that it is the sense of this meeting that the College, as soon as means can be obtained and it is feasible, be moved to a new and more adequate location.

The first recorded inkling that the College might leave Waterville is found in a letter written by Johnson to Philbrick on May 22, 1930.

The situation relative to our moving has been developing rapidly and is getting complex as well. A site is going to be offered us on the edge of the city of Augusta. It is probable that a substantial amount of money will come with this site, which could not be secured for our purpose elsewhere. There will naturally develop very strong opposition to any such move in the city of Waterville. What the attitude of our alumni in general will be, I cannot say. We must weigh very carefully all the factors of sentiment and money involved.

A fortnight before Johnson mentioned the offer to Philbrick, the prominent Augusta publisher, William H. Gannett, had written to Johnson, asking him to come to Augusta and see Gannett Park. Mr. Gannett suggested the park would be an ideal site for the College, but he did not then make an offer to donate the property. On June 9, however, Mr. Gannett presented a formal offer to the Colby Trustees: “I shall be glad to give Ganneston Park, free of all encumbrances, with the stipulation that it be used for the expansion of Colby College and that a sum of at least three and one-half million dollars be raised for the purpose in a time not to exceed three years.”

News of the Gannett offer aroused indignation in Waterville. The most unpopular man in town for many weeks was Franklin Johnson. “Keep Colby, move Johnson!” was the battle cry. The rumor spread that Johnson was de-
terminated to move the College to Augusta, when the truth was that he wanted to
arouse such financial backing as to assure a new Colby on the best available site,
whether it be in Waterville, Augusta, or Timbuctoo.

Upon first being informed of the Gannett offer, Philbrick shared Johnson's
view. He wrote to the President, "The new location must be the one which
will best serve the College and, through it, future generations, regardless of local
prejudice or excessive sentiment."

In July the same view was reemphasized in a letter which Philbrick wrote
to Johnson from his summer home at Squirrel Island:

Last Monday I was in Waterville to attend the annual meeting of the
Waterville Iron Works. The main subject of conversation wherever I
went was the possibility of moving the College to Augusta. Mr. Gan­
ett's proposal is a good thing to have. It is definite, sets a time limit,
and gives a chance for rich men in Augusta to subscribe in order to get
Colby into their city. Now it is Waterville's turn to make an offer.
What the loss of the College would mean to the town is beginning to
be realized by its citizens.

But Herbert Philbrick could not forget that he was a Waterville native as
well as a Colby graduate. He could not accept, without at least mild protest,
a decision that the College move to Augusta. He wrote to Johnson:

I believe a better site can be found in Waterville than the Gannett
site. I believe the continued connection of the names Colby and
Waterville to be a decided advantage. Sentiment is solid for leaving
the present site. You have, in your first year as President, created a
feeling of confidence in the College and in yourself, but there is a very
strong sentiment against moving the College to some other town. The
transition can better be made if the new site is in Waterville.

If proof beyond the facts already given is needed to establish Herbert Philbrick's
position as the original instigator in moving the College, it is furnished by a letter
which Johnson wrote to him on November 29, 1930. In that letter Johnson said,
"You must not forget that you were the one who first urged the necessity of this
move."

One man who was determined to keep the College in Waterville was the
influential editor of the Colby Alumni, Herbert C. Libby, who only a few years
earlier had been mayor of the city. A life-long resident and at one time editor
of its evening newspaper, Libby was prompted both by sentiment and by practical
considerations to fight vigorously to retain the College in the town of its birth.
Instead of launching diatribes of sentiment, Libby was wise enough to see in the
Gannett offer a serious challenge to financial recognition of the situation by
Waterville citizens. He knew that "money talks," and he vigorously worked with
other local leaders to form an effective committee to raise funds to provide the
College with a spacious new site within the environs of Waterville. Meanwhile
he let the Colby alumni know just what the situation was.

It is hard to visualize Waterville without Colby; it is not hard to visualize
Colby without Waterville. Colby can exist more easily without Watervil­
le than Waterville can exist without Colby. The College is Watervil­
le's bread and butter. The most conservative estimate places the
revenue derived by the city from the College at a million and a quarter. The city is known the country over as the home of Colby and therefore as a place of culture and opportunity. As an asset to the city Colby thus becomes incalculably valuable. If Colby should be removed to another place, a most dangerous blow would be struck against the city. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that a monetary offer of sufficient size to meet Mr. Gannett’s stipulations, along with the valuable site offered, so generously by him, will lose to Waterville its most valued possession. While it is not the province of the Alumnus to take sides, nevertheless we are prompted to suggest to Waterville citizens a way to present to the Colby authorities the most effective appeal.

Possession is nine points of the law, but only when the thing possessed is of inestimable value. If search of the records be made, it will be found that a vast number of people, many of them former citizens of Waterville, have sacrificed much for old Waterville College and for Colby. But as time went on, the city came to take the College for granted. In the last three or four financial campaigns, citizens of Waterville have shown amazing apathy. In the campaign for the new athletic building many prominent merchants gave absolutely nothing. In the Centennial Fund campaign, the total pledges by Waterville citizens proved to be the most discouraging blow. It has seemed at times as if the city had little or no interest in the College.

The way ahead for Waterville is clear. If they want Colby to remain in this city, the citizens must form a committee composed of several hundred leading people, pledged to united action to retain Colby. Sites must be found, and a choice of them offered free to the college committee. A concerted effort, intelligently planned and carried out, should be undertaken by the Waterville Committee to secure a sum of money approaching the figure named by Mr. Gannett. The immediately important step is for Waterville to organize her citizens into a large group of Friends of Colby, and for each to pledge so generously as to convince the governing body of the College and its 4000 graduates that the home folks deeply desire to keep Colby within its sacred walls.

Herbert Libby’s advice was heeded. A Citizens Committee, headed by a prominent merchant, Herbert Emery, pledged to the College Trustees, on September 17, 1930, “its full and hearty cooperation in any undertaking that the Trustees should make to raise such funds as may be necessary to establish the College upon a new site in Waterville.”

Strongly supported by the city government and by the Waterville-Winslow Chamber of Commerce, the Citizens Committee proposed to raise $100,000 for the College if it should decide to remove to a new site in Waterville.

In mid-September Libby became convinced that only some dramatic action could prevent an official decision to accept the Gannett offer. After talking repeatedly with prominent trustees, he felt they must sincerely decide that the welfare of the College lay in acceptance of a definite offer from Augusta rather than of the unfulfilled hopes of the Waterville pledge, however well intended. On many occasions Libby had talked with the venerable Julian Taylor and respected the Latin professor’s deep concern to have the College remain in Waterville. In Libby’s opinion the time had come to persuade Taylor to make a definite offer.

Taylor owned a gravel pit in the South End, near the Pine Grove Cemetery. Beyond it was a tract of land owned by Dr. James Poulin. It was not in itself
the best site for a college, but across the Messalonskee was a rising height affording an excellent site. Libby took Taylor to the site, where together they viewed the prospect. It was learned that the Poulin property could be bought for $10,000.

Libby tried to persuade Taylor to buy the Poulin tract adjoining his own land and donate it as a contribution to keep the College in Waterville. It was Libby's hope that, if the retention of the College could thus be assured, there would be time to work out a plan, acceptable to Dr. Taylor, to secure the preferable site across the stream. Taylor was reluctant to grant Libby's request, was even loath to believe that the Trustees would under any conditions accept the Gannett offer. But he finally said he would donate the gravel pit.

The steering committee of the Waterville Citizens group decided that the Taylor offer, even if it consisted principally of a gravel pit, was just the stimulus needed to assure success of the financial campaign to provide the College with a new site as the gift of Waterville citizens. But, to obtain the proper psychological effect, Dr. Taylor's personal presence at a mass meeting seemed essential. The committee left it to Libby to see that Taylor arrived at the appointed meeting.

Unfortunately the date selected was the September evening of the President's reception at the opening of the new college year in 1930. In the receiving line at that reception, Libby approached Taylor and reminded him that a packed crowd of more than a thousand was waiting at City Hall. Taylor avowed he wasn't going. Libby insisted he would stay right on the spot until the receiving line had broken up, then Taylor must get into Libby's car, just outside the reception hall, and both would rush off to the mass meeting. With equal insistence Taylor said Libby could take Taylor's written offer to the meeting, but not the man himself.

If Taylor did not already know it, Libby's students could have told him that the Latin professor now confronted a man who would not take No for answer. Whether by sheer importunity or by means not clear even to Libby himself, Taylor was finally won over. So down to City Hall they sped, and there, amidst thunderous applause, the aged professor stepped forward and told his fellow citizens that he would donate a piece of land in the South End of Waterville as his personal contribution to keep the College in the city.

Of course no college could be built in that gravel pit, nor on the few acres immediately surrounding it, but at the time that fact was not important. A venerable gentleman who had taught on the old campus for sixty years cared enough about retaining the College in Waterville to give a piece of land for that cause. It was the electrifying spark so badly needed by the Citizens Committee. People were at last truly aroused for the campaign. It was the critical moment in the whole story of Colby's choice of a new site. Never afterward was there any serious danger that the College would be established in another town.

On September 23, 1930, Dr. Taylor did what Libby had asked him to do in the first place. He submitted to the Trustee Committee this document:

At the suggestion of President Johnson, I now put in writing a proposition already made to him in personal interview. If the site in Waterville known as the Kennebec-Messalonskee site, owned by Dr. James Poulin, and covering about three hundred acres, will be accepted by the Trustees as the future site of the College, I will purchase the same from its present owner and offer it as a gift to the College to be its home hereafter and I hope forever.
Alumnae Building (*top*); and Foss Hall on College Avenue.
Eleanora Woodman

Dean Ninetta Runnals with President Bixler at dedication of the Runnals Union

Dedication of Woodman Hall
Women’s Activities
The old Gymnasium

Cheerleaders calling alumni for Colby Night march to old campus

The old field house
Football, Old and New
Hockey

Basketball

Track
Baseball on the old campus

Dedication of Coombs Field: Eddie Roundy congratulating Jack Coombs, with Dr. Bixler.

Baseball on Mayflower Hill
When the Trustees assembled for their fall meeting on November 21, 1930, all interested persons knew that the time for decision had come. Twenty-one members of the Board attended that meeting. The committee presented two reports: a minority recommendation that the Gannett offer be accepted, and a majority insistence that the College remain in Waterville. The final vote was sixteen to five to accept the majority report, whereupon a member of the minority moved to make the decision unanimous, and that was done. The actual vote was worded, "The location of the College shall remain in Waterville, provided the City of Waterville and its citizens fulfill the conditions submitted to the Trustees by the Waterville Citizens Committee." That meant that Waterville must raise $100,000 to make valid the Trustees' decision to select the new site there.

At the same meeting the Trustees appointed a committee of seven (Johnson, Wadsworth, Wyman, Padelford, Smith, Seaverns, and Hilton) to draw up plans for future procedure, to definitely select a site in Waterville, to develop a complete plan of organization for the removal to the selected site and for financing the same, and accorded the committee authority to expend such money as might be necessary to that end, including the right to purchase land and to accept gifts. Authorization was also given to engage such assistance, including architects and engineers, as the committee should consider advisable.

Three sites had been proposed and surveyed for selection as the new Waterville home of Colby College: the Peninsula (Taylor) site at the confluence of the Messalonskee and the Kennebec; the Mountain Farm site, on the highest land in Waterville, the ridge between the city and Fairfield Center; and the Mayflower Hill site, where land options had been taken by Walter Wyman. After consultation with several architects and after lengthy discussion, the committee decided upon the Mayflower Hill site, which Editor Libby thus described in the Alumnus:

Mayflower Hill and Beefsteak Grove are landmarks familiar to most Colby students. I have visited Bunker Hill and climbed to the top of the Statue of Liberty, but not until recently, although a resident of Waterville for forty-six years, had I visited these old landmarks that stand out so prominently overlooking the city. From this elevation can be seen the Camden mountains, the Dixmont Hills, old Saddleback and Mount Bigelow. The Canadian border range to the north and Mount Washington to the west are visible on a clear day. The proposed site has an area of 600 acres sloping gently eastward to the Messalonskee. The extension of Gilman Street in a straight line leads one to the very top of the height.

The Waterville community enthusiastically accepted the challenge of the Colby Trustees. Five pledges of $5,000 each were at once secured, but there remained the onerous task of raising the balance of $75,000 in small gifts. Before the Colby Trustees convened for their spring meeting in April, 1931, the job had been done. The Waterville Committee announced total pledges of $107,270 to purchase and start the facilities on the Mayflower Hill site. The Trustees were therefore pleased to spread on their records the following resolution:

The Trustees of Colby congratulate her on the atmosphere of friendship and helpfulness that pervades the city where the College was born and where it has elected to remain. To raise $100,000 during the season just passed seemed well-nigh impossible. It has been done; the
lands are bought, the deeds delivered. That more than six hundred persons joined in the purchase is a happy augury for the future. It is therefore unanimously voted to convey to the Waterville Citizens Committee the appreciation and thanks, not only of the officials and executives of the College, but also of her great body of alumni. This we do, expressing thereby our warmest appreciation of Waterville's generosity.

Colby College now had a new site, but not a single building, not even a roadway, on it. As one trustee put it, "Come Hell or high water, we're committed now to Mayflower Hill." Little did he or anyone else realize that, before Frank Johnson's dream could come true, both the Hell of war and the high water of financial panic would have to be met and subdued. The task of moving the hundred year old College to the hill of the mayflowers had only begun.
CHAPTER XXXVII

New Clothes For Alma Mater

The new plant of Colby College on Mayflower Hill, which in 1960 consisted of thirty-one buildings of Georgian colonial design, was not the result of a single effort, but rather of a series of carefully planned and skillfully conducted campaigns. In 1929, the original plan to build a new gymnasium had been expanded into a Development Fund drive for half a million dollars. When Mayflower Hill was selected as the new site, the Development Fund campaign became the Mayflower Hill campaign. Heading the solicitation for three million dollars was Walter S. Wyman, President of the Central Maine Power Company. Vice-Chairman was Herbert Wadsworth, head of the college trustees. Wyman realized that, since the disastrous crash of the stock market in October, 1929, the time had not been propitious for raising money, but like Johnson he was determined to go ahead. "I shall be glad," he said, "to do my share of the hard work involved in securing this necessary sum of money."

The campaign received a splendid start with a pledge from Professor Julian Taylor. On Colby Night, October 30, 1931, assembled alumni in the old gymnasium heard the thrilling announcement that Taylor had promised a princely gift of $250,000. Though the pledge could not be fulfilled, as we shall presently see, it was made in good faith.

An anonymous member of the Class of 1880 gave $15,000 in 1931, so that work could start at once on clearing the site. J. Fredrick Larson, consulting architect of the Association of American Colleges, was engaged as architect of the new Colby, and the firm of Marts and Lundy was employed to conduct the financial campaign. The expenses of this solicitation for three million dollars were underwritten by the Northern Baptist Convention, thus enabling every dollar given by alumni and friends to go directly toward the project.

It was in connection with publicity for the campaign that Joseph Coburn Smith began a distinguished career as a member of the college staff. Because there was not a foot of office space available on the old campus, Joe, as well as the representatives of Marts and Lundy, had to establish offices in the building of the Waterville Savings Bank. A member of the Coburn family, associated with the College since its founding, Joe Smith was the son of Trustee George Otis Smith and Grace Coburn Smith, both of the Class of 1893. As an undergraduate, Joe had been one of the most efficient and best remembered editors of the Colby Echo. A member of the Class of 1924, he had kept in close touch with the College, and now turned his talents toward the production of dignified, attractive, and effective publications to promote the Mayflower Hill campaign.
In the summer of 1931 the prominent New York firm of Hegeman-Harris was engaged as general contractor for the new plant. Besides participating in the erection of Rockefeller Center, the company had enjoyed wide experience in college construction. It had put up the entire plant of the Harvard Business School, had erected buildings at Yale, Columbia, Vanderbilt and Dartmouth, and had recently signed contracts for the new American Embassy in Paris and for the approach to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington.

By the spring of 1932, although more than $25,000 had already been expended on roads and other facilities, it had become apparent that prosperity was not just around the corner. Great as was the disappointment, there was no dissenting voice among the Trustees when it was voted to postpone indefinitely any further solicitation of funds. Johnson assured the Trustees that the project was by no means abandoned and that architect Larson was being retained on a reduced schedule.

The whole story of Colby’s move to Mayflower Hill, despite its eventual spectacular success, seems to have been just one frustration after another. First came the depression itself, necessitating postponement of the campaign. On October 13, 1932, Professor Taylor died. Instead of getting the promised $250,000 from his estate, the College found the estate hopelessly involved, and only after twenty years of painful investigation, negotiation, and litigation did Dr. Taylor’s beloved alma mater receive anything at all.

It had been Taylor’s intention that, in addition to the promised $250,000 for Mayflower Hill, the College, as residuary legatee under his will, would receive at least $100,000, with which to endow the Taylor Professorship of Latin, which the Trustees had already named in his honor.

All who knew the venerable teacher of Latin believed him to be a wealthy man. He had long been an officer of the Ticonic National Bank, and he was considered one of Waterville’s shrewdest investors. He himself considered his holdings worth more than half a million. Had the estate been settled in 1928, a year before our nation’s worst depression had hit all finances, the half million estimate might probably have been realized. But it turned out that the Taylor investments were chiefly of a kind hardest hit by financial panic, and the intent of that good man who had taught in the College for 63 long years, and who loved it as few others had ever done, could not be carried out.

Professor Taylor’s will, drawn in 1925, after naming a few family bequests, made the College the residuary legatee, provided the College would accept the obligation to pay an annuity of $2,000 a year to a Taylor niece, and after her death $500 a year to her son. A second provision required that, at the termination of the annuities, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars should be set aside to endow the Taylor Professorship of Latin.

It soon became clear that the aged professor had not known how hard the depression had hit his substantial holdings. The executor could not, in 1936, find the money even to pay the designated personal legacies of $27,000. Securities were held by banks as collateral for notes endorsed by Taylor. The remaining estate was in real estate and real estate mortgages for which there was no ready sale.

It should be remembered that many persons far richer than Professor Taylor had been wiped out by the depression. The professor was not “playing the market.” His major investments were in what he considered to be sound real estate mortgages. Three things led to the collapse of his fortune: depressed
real estate values generally, the bursting of the Florida boom, and his generous assistance to local associates hard pressed by the times.

As early as 1934, President Johnson saw that the Taylor estate was almost hopelessly involved. He reported to the Trustees:

The estate is in a most confusing and unsatisfactory condition. The inventory revealed some substantial assets, but the holdings which the testator regarded as most valuable, if liquidated at this time, would yield little, if anything. Some hundred parcels of real estate in Florida has brought us nothing but tax bills. The sale of certain timber and turpentine rights has enabled us to realize enough to pay the taxes. Beyond that, it is doubtful if the Florida property will ever yield a dollar.

Certain timber rights in British Columbia, for which the Professor had paid a substantial fee annually, gave him the privilege of cutting and marketing timber, upon payment of a percentage of the proceeds to the Canadian government. The testator regarded those rights as very valuable. The best advice we can secure leads us to the conclusion that they have, at present, no value whatever.

Real estate in Superior, Wisconsin, representing an investment of $60,000, does not yield returns sufficient to pay taxes and the interest on a mortgage of $25,000.

We have also come into possession of a brickyard and other pieces of real estate in Waterville, so involved as to yield nothing but perplexing problems. Bank notes, endorsed by Professor Taylor, will still further reduce the estate. It is probable that final settlement, long deferred, will yield not much more than is necessary to maintain the annuity to the niece.

It was 1952 before all was settled, when the College sold about twenty remaining Florida lots for two thousand dollars. The niece died in 1956, and her son had meanwhile reached the age of thirty. During twenty-four years the College faithfully paid the promised annuity. In 1956 it could fulfill the second provision of the Taylor will, to set up an endowment for the professorship of Latin. But the amount was far short of what Professor Taylor had intended. In 1959 the endowment for the Taylor Professorship stood on the Treasurer's books at $38,844. As for the promised $250,000 for Mayflower Hill, not a penny was ever received. Dr. Julian Taylor once told the Colby students in a chapel talk that only two things are necessary to accumulate a fortune: foresight and patience. Patience the professor had in great abundance, but in respect to foresight he had the same fallibility as many of his contemporaries. Professor Taylor was no prodigal son, but like that biblical character he could not foresee the famine in the far country. He could not conceive that a depression would be so sweeping and so prolonged that it would reduce the residue of his big estate to less than forty thousand dollars.

When the decision was made to move to Mayflower Hill, there was no longer talk of turning the Women's Division into a separate College for women. As Joe Smith put it in an article in the *Alumnus*:

Colby College is committed to the principle of education of both sexes. Women today do not live in cloistered insulation from the world.
They expect to work with men and compete with men in an increasing number of vocational fields. On the new campus the women’s group will consist of a social union and two dormitories. One large section of the Union will be a gymnasium with lockers, showers, corrective rooms, and offices. Each sorority will have its chapter hall in the building, and there will be social rooms for various purposes. The two dormitories, housing 300 girls, will each be made up of two units connected by a common kitchen.

The development of fraternities on the new campus will be more fully discussed in the chapter on Fraternities. At this point it is only necessary to say that long and careful consideration was given to the question of fraternity houses on the Hill. A large committee under the chairmanship of Dr. George Otis Smith, and on which the present historian served as local vice-chairman, made an exhaustive study of the problem. Trustees, administration, alumni, and students were fully represented on the committee. Their recommendation, with only two dissenting votes out of twenty-one, was for the continuance of fraternities, but for the houses to be built on college land, thus assuring virtual college ownership. There were to be no fraternity dining rooms, a resident house-mother must be employed in each fraternity house, and operative control would be exercised by a prudential committee for each house, consisting of representatives of alumni, students, and the administration. Arrangements were made for the College to loan to each fraternity corporation one-half the cost of building the house, on long-term amortization.

At the Trustees’ annual meeting in June, 1934, President Johnson reported that, with Federal assistance, a road had been built from the County Road, near where it crossed the Messalonskee, to the new campus, and a railroad bridge had been built to cross the new road by overhead pass, at an expense of $65,000.

Although progress was indeed made on clearing the land and building roads, no active solicitation of funds took place during four of the deepest depression years, 1932 through 1935. In November, 1935, feeling that the financial skies were brightening, the Trustees voted that “partial resumption of financial efforts may reasonably and confidently be made to assemble funds for the new buildings, and $10,000 is appropriated to carry out these efforts by the employment of a field man from Marts and Lundy, by preparation of subscription agreements, and by public announcement.”

In February, 1936, a campaign was launched among the alumni for a men’s union to be a lasting memorial to President Arthur Roberts. Then in March, 1937, came the exciting news that George Horace Lorimer, 1898, Editor of the Saturday Evening Post, had agreed to pay the entire cost of a new chapel, to be named in honor of Lorimer’s distinguished father, at one time pastor of Boston’s Tremont Temple.

The first building for which ground was broken on Mayflower Hill was the Lorimer Chapel. At those exercises on August 18, 1937, President Johnson said, “Today the initial step in the building of our new campus is the breaking of ground for the erection not of a science hall, not of library, stadium or dormitory, but of a chapel—to house the spirit, shelter the flame, and be the rallying point of all our labors and aspirations.” The cornerstone was laid by Mr. Lorimer’s two sons on October 21, 1938.

In that summer of 1937, Johnson summed up the accomplishments on the Mayflower Hill project. “During the past five years the City of Waterville, with
substantial assistance from federal agencies and from the College, has spent more than $250,000 in building the Thayer bridge, public roads and sewer lines, all of which are essential to eventual buildings on the new campus. From the widow of James King, 1889, has come $150,000 for a wing of the new library. Pledges for new buildings have been made by Merton Miller, 1890; by Dr. and Mrs. George Averill, as well as by Mr. Lorimer. Last June the alumni successfully completed the raising of $300,000 to build a men's union as a memorial to President Roberts. Today we celebrate the actual beginning of construction on this site."

Ground was broken for the Roberts Union on October 25, 1937. That building would contain not only recreational rooms, offices for student organizations, and guest rooms, but would also house a central dining service for all the men students. Meanwhile a vigorous campaign among the alumnae for the women's union had passed the half-way mark.

As construction at last got underway, there was much talk about "a functionally planned campus." What did those words mean? In its issue of April, 1938, the Alumnus answered the question.

A functionally planned campus is one where the layout of buildings has not been determined by a process of haphazard accretion, but thoughtfully worked out from every angle before the first spadeful of earth is turned; a campus where every building is carefully located and designed to carry on its function in the educational scheme as efficiently as possible. The arrangement of the main campus is on three sides of a quadrangle, with the open end facing the city. The academic buildings are placed in accordance with the great divisions of learning, with the library at the focal point of both axes. Fraternity houses and dormitories are so placed that fraternity and non-fraternity men will naturally mingle together. The natural slopes are utilized so that each building has direct entrances on two floors. Each building has been planned around its needs, rather than first deciding on its size and shape. The academic buildings are not mere space units for classes, but are dynamic working factors in the educational process.

At the meeting of the Trustees in November, 1937, President Johnson had reported that over a million dollars had already been raised among alumni and trustees; that the foundations of the Lorimer chapel had been completed; that the main section of the Library foundation would be finished within a few weeks; that the drainage pipes of the athletic field had been laid through the generosity of Charles Seavems; and that during the winter the sewer system and the campus roads would be finished with WPA funds. At the same meeting the Trustees appropriated $5,000 for construction of a model of the Mayflower Hill development. A glimpse of that model, which still stands encased on the top floor of the Library's north wing, reveals both the similarity and the difference between the original design and the completed plant, as it stood in 1960. The fundamental design is the same: Miller Library at the center, equidistant between Lorimer Chapel and Roberts Union on the horizontal axis, with the Library's main entrance facing the city across terraced lawns, and the dormitories arranged in a symmetrical arc behind it. But some of the other buildings are on quite different sites than those suggested by the model. As construction developed, conditions dictated those changes, all of them for the better.
In 1937 the College launched what was called the Maine Million campaign, an attempt to raise a million dollars from the permanent and summer residents of Maine for the purpose of erecting dormitories for men and for women. Started on August 18, on the occasion of breaking ground for the Lorimer Chapel, the campaign gained rapid momentum, giving the Trustees confidence to authorize the laying of further foundations. When college opened in the fall of 1938, President Johnson stated: “We have laid the foundations of four buildings and have excavated for others, as well as erecting the superstructure of the Lorimer Chapel.” The nine buildings to which Johnson thus referred were the Lorimer Chapel, the Roberts Union, the Library, the two units forming the Women's Union and the Women's Gymnasium, Mary Low and Louise Coburn Halls, and the East and West dormitories for men. At that time none except the Chapel had been constructed above the foundation; the foundations were in for Roberts Union, Library, Women's Union and Women's Gymnasium. For the other four buildings there were as yet only excavations.

The next task was to provide for the dormitories, and to that end the Maine Million was directed. Except for the campaign chairman, George Otis Smith, the committee was composed of Maine people who were not Colby alumni or trustees. It was a venture of faith in the new Colby, endorsed liberally by both permanent and summer residents. The presidents of Bates, Bowdoin, and the University of Maine accepted places on the committee, as did such leading public figures as Carl E. Milliken, Ralph Owen Brewster, William Tudor Gardiner, Robert Hale, William R. Pattangall, Wallace H. White, and Guy P. Gannett. The committee contained persons of prominence in many fields: the novelists Booth Tarkington and Kenneth Roberts; the poet Edna St. Vincent Millay; the teacher and writer, Mary Ellen Chase; the musician Walter Damrosch; America's great preacher, Harry Emerson Fosdick; the famous Quaker leader, Rufus Jones; magazine editor Gertrude B. Lane; Mrs. Dwight Morrow; and the cancer research specialist, Dr. Clarence Little.

Of great concern to President Johnson and the Colby Trustees was the proposed library. Not only was it to be located at the focal center of the campus, but it was also to be the largest and most expensive building in the original plans. Construction costs increased so much that some of the later buildings cost even more than the huge library, but originally it called for the largest allocation of funds. A good start had been made when the estate of James King, 1889, provided $150,000 for the library's south wing. For a long time the source of remaining funds for the building was in doubt. President Johnson and Dr. George Averill had reason to believe that the money could be obtained from a California resident, Merton L. Miller, 1890, classmate of President Roberts and a member of the sophomore class that had initiated Franklin Johnson into his freshman year. Miller was known to have substantial interest in productive gold mines in the Philippines, as well as other investments. The importunity of Johnson and Averill finally prevailed, and at their annual meeting in June, 1939, the Trustees voted: “Because of the receipt of $125,000 from Merton Miller, with promise of a substantially larger amount, the Library shall be named, in memory of Mr. Miller's father, the William Miller Memorial Library.” Mr. Miller himself laid the cornerstone on September 29, 1939.

The summer of 1939 saw the creation of Johnson Pond. Earth to fill depressions and smooth the landscape had to come from somewhere. Walter Wyman suggested that it be taken from the marshy, spring-fed area north of men's dormitories, although at that time those dormitories were only excavations.
The result was the lovely expanse of water appropriately named for President Johnson.

In June, 1939, the alumnae had, with appropriate ceremonies, laid the cornerstone of the Women's Union with Florence E. Dunn, 1896, presiding. Others prominent in the exercises were Ervena Goodale Smith, 1924, who had directed the campaign; Mabel Dunn Libby, 1903; Edith Watkins Chester, 1904; and Dean Ninetta Runnals, 1908. The Alumnus commented: "The shoveling of the women, while symbolic, proved somewhat ineffective as to making a hole in the ground. This was remedied, however, by the steam shovel, which immediately snorted and began to chew into the soil in earnest, putting on a good show and proving that dirt actually was beginning to fly."

When the Trustees met in November, 1939, President Johnson could make a stirring report. "The construction of Roberts Union, Women's Union and the Library are now nearing completion. What was once a dream is now becoming a reality. The four buildings already constructed include a larger aggregate of cubic space than that of all the buildings on the old campus except the Field House. The highly specialized buildings for science, and the dormitories, are all that remain necessary for operation of the College on Mayflower Hill."

In the spring of 1940, the Maine Million campaign had progressed sufficiently to warrant the construction of the outer shells of the East and West dormitories for men and the large dormitory for women, which housed under one roof with connecting kitchen the units later known as Mary Low and Louise Coburn halls. The Alumnus proudly called attention to the unique construction of the housing for men.

The buildings are ingeniously planned so as to get away from the barracks-like nature of the conventional school dormitory. There will be no long, noisy corridors. Each building consists of what amounts to three separate residence halls under one roof. Each self-contained unit will bear its own house name and accommodate about thirty boys. Each will have its own entrance, recreational lounge, and apartment for a faculty resident.

The six separate sections of the men's dormitories were named respectively for six Colby presidents: Chaplin, Champlin, Pepper, Robins, Small and Butler.

Even before a single class could be held on Mayflower Hill, careful thought had been given to landscaping. Attractive terraces had been built in front of the Miller Library, and the winter month of January, 1941, saw the transplanting of ten full sized elm trees to line the approach to the Lorimer Chapel. They were the gift of Mrs. Mary Curtis Bok of Philadelphia, who made the gift in memory of her father, Cyrus H. K. Curtis, publisher both of Mr. Bok's Ladies' Home Journal and Mr. Lorimer's Saturday Evening Post. The trees, taken from another part of the Mayflower Hill land, were all 35 to 40 feet high when they were transplanted in the biting cold of January. A frozen ball of earth would then adhere to the roots without crumbling. Later Mrs. Bok became convinced that the entire approach to the Chapel should be changed, that instead of the straight central walk there should be two curving walks with a broad lawn between them. She provided $10,000 to make this obvious improvement, and the whole area in front of the Chapel has since been known as the Cyrus H. K. Curtis Approach.
After the laying of the cornerstone of the women's dormitory on June 15, 1941, summer work proceeded vigorously. The women's dormitory was roofed in before autumn and the women's gymnasium, gift of Dr. and Mrs. George Averill, was well under way. Foundations were laid for Delta Kappa Epsilon and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity houses.

Step-up in national defense had caused a scarcity of building materials through most of 1941. Then on December 7th, with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, came the crushing blow to further progress on Colby's building program. All construction had to cease, with small hope of its resumption until the war should be over. Like President Roberts in 1917, President Johnson in 1941 was determined that Colby's complete and united effort should be directed toward the patriotic task of winning the war.

There they stood, most of them untouched until 1946—the outer shells of half a dozen buildings, the mere foundations of others, and only excavations for a few more. Before a single class could meet or a single student be housed on Mayflower Hill much work remained to be done.

It was Colby's determination to participate to the fullest extent in the war effort that enabled limited use of the new campus much earlier than had been expected during the first grim months after Pearl Harbor. In order that buildings on the old campus might be available for military use, the government was persuaded to release the necessary materials to complete the women's dormitories and the women's union on the Hill.

Colby women will always be proud that it was they, the once unwanted guests in a men's college, who first occupied the Mayflower Hill campus. When college opened in September, 1942, they took residence in Mary Low and Louise Coburn halls, and soon afterward both their union and their gymnasium were ready for use. Not all the girls could be accommodated on the Hill; some of the freshmen had to be left in the smaller dormitories downtown. Fortunately, however, old Foss Hall and other buildings of the city campus were made ready for 500 men sent to Colby in February, 1943, as the 21st College Training Detachment of the Army Air Force. When the second semester opened, a few classes were being conducted in the Women's Union. Those classes were attended chiefly by girls, because by that time the war had reduced civilian male enrollment.

Before the war came to an end, Mrs. Bessie Fuller Perry had made a significant gift of $10,000 to equip an infirmary on Mayflower Hill as a memorial to her husband, Dr. Sherman Perry, 1901. At first intended to be an infirmary solely for men students, in one wing of Roberts Union, it developed into spacious infirmary quarters for both sexes. The “annex” to Mary Low Hall, intended as the women's infirmary, proved inadequate, and the happy decision was made to adapt the Perry Infirmary to the use of all Colby students.

When the war was at last over, the Trustees wasted no time resuming construction. In November, 1945, they voted to contract for nearly two million dollars of work, although only $775,000 could be made immediately available to pay for it.

There is no better way to recount the progress made during 1946-47 than to quote from President Bixler's report made at the close of that year.

When the women's dormitory and the women's union were opened in 1942, five other buildings stood as empty shells and remained so until April, 1946. Despite almost fantastic difficulties, including scarcity of
both labor and materials, those five buildings have now been completed. Two dormitories for men came first. Then in February the Roberts Union was ready, providing a cafeteria for men, as well as a recreational center and headquarters for student organizations. The Miller Library was ready for partial use in February, making it possible to hold virtually all classes, except in the sciences, on the Hill. More than 120,000 books were moved from the old to the new library during the spring recess. Finally, just in time for Commencement, the Lorimer Chapel was ready. Foundations are being laid for two new science buildings and a president's house. A new building, 200 by 150 feet, to serve as a temporary gymnasium and field house, is now under construction.

The athletic facility to which President Bixler referred was an ingenious device. Securing as war surplus a large airplane hangar, the College cut it in two, made from it a big indoor field and basketball area, and built around three sides of it offices, shower rooms, training rooms, and remedial quarters for the work in athletics and physical education. Dr. and Mrs. George Averill, who had already done much to assure the new campus, donated the funds for the President's House, built at the top of the southern slope beyond the women's quadrangle.

Just before Pearl Harbor the College had received a bequest of $200,000 from Mrs. Jennie C. Keyes for the erection of a science building. It had at first been intended to have separate buildings for chemistry and physics, but careful consideration convinced the authorities that one building could adequately serve the needs of both sciences. Such a combined building would be called the Keyes Science Building. By the spring of 1947 it became apparent that rapidly rising costs had pushed the expense of such a building far beyond the money available from the bequest. It was another incident of the many frustrations that confronted the College during the long years that followed the decision to move. Again it was Dr. George Averill who came to the rescue. Martin Keyes, founder of the famous Keyes Fibre Company, had been the doctor's father-in-law, and the doctor himself had been largely responsible for bringing the business safely through the depression and for protecting Mrs. Keyes' inheritance. Dr. Averill generously agreed to furnish the funds necessary to complete the building, which before it was occupied had cost nearly $600,000.

Before the war, plans for a classroom building had centered around a memorial to Elijah Parish Lovejoy. A vigorous campaign was started among the newspaper publishers of the United States to raise the necessary funds to erect such a building as a memorial to Colby's martyr in the cause of freedom of the press. The intent was to make the building not only the site of social science classrooms and offices, but also a center for studies and conferences in communication. Although many publishers gave liberally, the war stalled the campaign, and it never regained sufficient strength to raise the necessary money, especially in view of rising costs. Decision was finally reached to redesign the building to house classes and offices for the divisions of humanities and social studies, as well as provide a large lecture room. Funds from other sources were added to the gifts of the publishers, and in February, 1959, Colby's most useful classroom building was opened.

A tremendous problem was presented after the war by rapidly rising costs of construction. This is illustrated by what happened to the fraternity houses. In 1940, when the architect planned fraternity houses for at least thirty occupants
not to exceed a cost of $35,000 each, the Trustees voted to assist in building such houses by loaning to the alumni corporations of the fraternities "an amount not to exceed fifty percent of the cost, but not over $17,500 for each house."

By 1958, seven fraternity houses had been erected between the Library and the Roberts Union. Following the building of houses for DKE and ATO, Zeta Psi and DU soon put up their buildings, followed quickly by Phi Delta Theta and Tau Delta Phi. Several years later the Lambda Chi Alpha house was opened. So serious had become the inflation that not one of those houses cost less than a hundred thousand dollars.

Some of those buildings were still in the future, however, when Commencement came in 1949. Since the start on Lorimer Chapel in 1937, twelve buildings had been erected: Roberts Union, Miller Library, Lorimer Chapel, ATO and DKE fraternity houses, the Women's Union, the Women's Gymnasium, the dormitory containing Mary Low and Louise Coburn halls, East and West dormitories for men, the athletic field house and the President's home, the last being another magnificent gift by Dr. and Mrs. Averill. But the work of construction had by no means stopped. The Keyes Science Building was well under way, foundations had been laid for five additional fraternity houses, and two more dormitories for men had been started. Campaign to raise funds to house biology and geology was drawing to a successful conclusion.

The Keyes Science Building was opened in the fall of 1950, Dr. George Averill presenting President Bixler with the keys at appropriate dedicatory exercises. Somewhat earlier the football field had been appropriately named for Charles Seaverns, 1901, and the baseball field for Colby's famous big-league pitcher, Jack Coombs, 1906. The tennis courts, six clay and six asphalt, were completed by a gift from Mrs. Edna M. Wales of Massillon, Ohio, and Northport, Maine, in memory of her son, Sgt. Walter M. Wales, a war casualty. The two additional dormitories for men were named for Franklin Johnson and Dr. George Averill. In order to house married veterans who enrolled in increasing numbers after 1945, the College secured four abandoned shipyard houses, which were placed at the extreme west of the campus and converted into eight apartments each. Intended for use during three or four years only, those ugly structures stood for more than ten years until they were finally razed in 1958. Johnson and Averill halls were opened for student occupancy in the fall of 1950.

Dr. Matthew T. Mellon of Pittsburgh, a member of the Colby Trustees, made in 1949 the magnificent gift of a new Walcker organ for the Lorimer Chapel. First publicly played on March 1, 1950, at a recital by one of America's foremost organists, E. Powers Biggs, Colby's organ is one of very few pipe organs in this country of European manufacture. It is product of E. F. Walcker and Company of Ludingsburg, Germany. The instrument was dedicated on July 28, 1950, when the recitalist was the famous Swiss organist, Karl Matthaei.

On June 10, 1951, was laid the cornerstone of the long awaited Life Sciences Building, with State Geologist Joseph M. Trefethen, 1931, as the principal speaker. The completed building was dedicated on October 3, 1952. Foss and Woodman halls were dedicated in June, 1952.

When College opened in the fall of 1952, President Bixler could proudly say: "No longer is our house divided. We are now completely on Mayflower Hill, with all our students housed in the new dormitories or fraternity houses. The old campus is but a fond memory."

It was indeed a great victory. Twenty-two long years had elapsed since the momentous day in 1930 when the Trustees voted that the College must move
“when feasible.” Twenty-one new buildings now graced the landscape on Mayflower Hill, but the task was not yet complete. As Bixler put it: “Too many classes are still held in crowded quarters in Miller Library and the Women’s Union. We must press for the Lovejoy Building and the classrooms it will provide. Our work in art and music has long outgrown the makeshift facilities on the top floor of Roberts Union and in the basement of Lorimer Chapel. A building for fine arts is on the list of ‘musts’.”

Before either building could be erected, several years would pass and a new financial campaign would be completed. Meanwhile the college shops near the tennis courts were remodeled into a Little Theatre and headquarters for the expanding work in dramatic art, while a new brick building near the gymnasium was built to house the shops, storerooms and offices of the Department of Buildings and Grounds.

Alumni agitation for an indoor skating rink resulted in the building, as a north extension to the field house, of a modern skating rink, which not only gave impetus to Colby’s already active sport of hockey, but also provided opportunity for recreational skating to both students and townspeople. The skating arena was named for a generous contributor, Harold Alfond, manufacturer at Norridgewock, Maine. The improved field house was named for the man who had done much to promote all Colby progress, including athletics—the late Herbert Wadsworth, 1892, for several years chairman of the Board of Trustees.

When, in 1956, it had become clear that completion of the needed facilities could not be obtained without another spirited financial campaign, there was then launched the Colby Fulfillment Fund, to assure the erection of three buildings: the Lovejoy classroom building for humanities and social sciences, Art and Music Building, and Administration Building.

The Lovejoy Building was opened for use in February, 1959, and in the fall of that year the Departments of Art and Music left their dingy temporary quarters to take occupancy of a splendid new building, dedicated to the man who had done more than any other person to make art and music significant subjects in the Colby curriculum, President Julius Seelye Bixler. During 1960 the Eustis Administration Building was under construction.

How many buildings would stand on Mayflower Hill when the Administration Building should be finished? The answer is not so easy as it seems, because it depends on whether one counts as each unit only each structure unconnected with any other, or whether he considers connected structures as separate units. For instance, the women’s dormitories are considered as four distinct units, although they are only two complete structures. On the other hand, the ten largest dormitories for men are thought of as only two buildings, although each is divided into three separately named sections. The building called the Women’s Union should appropriately be considered two buildings, because the Union proper is the gift of Colby Alumnae, while the gymnasium wing, which serves the College so admirably as its largest auditorium, is the gift of Dr. and Mrs. George G. Averill.

Based on the precedents of their origin and their subsequent use, the number of buildings on Mayflower Hill, including the Administration Building, in 1960, was thirty-one. Beginning with the President’s Home, the building first encountered as one approaches the campus via Mayflower Hill Drive, the visitor comes next to the buildings of the Women’s Division: Foss and Woodman halls, the Women’s Union and Gymnasium, Mary Low and Louise Coburn halls. Then, up the west drive, he passes the Administration and Lovejoy buildings. As he reaches the
crest of the grade, on his left is Lorimer Chapel and on his right the Miller Library. Behind the Library are Averill and Johnson halls, and the two larger dormitories known as East and West halls, containing the six units named respectively for Presidents Chaplin, Champlin, Robins, Pepper, Butler and Small. To the north and east of the Library are seven fraternity houses, Roberts Union, the Maintenance Shops and offices, the Wadsworth Field House, the Alfond Arena, the Superintendent’s Home, the Little Theater, the Bixler Art and Music Building, the Life Sciences Building, and the Keyes Science Building.

Into the Mayflower Hill plant have gone more than three million hours of labor, more than twenty-five million bricks, more than fifty thousand tons of cement, more than twenty thousand yards of sand and gravel. The erection of all the buildings necessary for a college of a thousand students was no small contribution to the economy of Maine.

Two questions command attention. How much did it all cost, and where did the money come from? At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1959, there had been expended on land, buildings, utilities, improvements, and new equipment at Mayflower Hill a total of $8,552,415. Of that amount more than seven and a half million had gone for buildings, nearly three-quarters of a million for landscaping and utilities, and the remainder for new furnishings. College officials estimated that, when all bills had been paid for the erection of the Art and Music Building and the Administration Building, the total expenditures on the Mayflower Hill plant would exceed $9,500,000.

Some of the construction figures reveal the amazing increase in building costs during the twenty years between the beginning of Lorimer Chapel and the erection of the Lovejoy Building. The beautiful, spacious chapel, including its wing with the smaller Rose Memorial Chapel, had cost $213,153. To replace it in 1959 would have taken at least $650,000. The original building to house women students (Mary Low and Louise Coburn) had cost $444,884. When the matching building (Foss and Woodman) was constructed ten years later, although many savings were effected, including one dining room instead of two, the cost was $880,219. In fact, up to the time of the auditor’s report in June, 1959, that dormitory had been Colby’s most expensive building.

The two largest dormitories for men had cost respectively $260,000 and $220,000. A few years later the erection of the much smaller Johnson and Averill halls cost $170,000 each. In spite of its size, the Miller Library with its towering spire cost less than the Keyes Science Building. The few years that elapsed between the construction of the Miller and the Keyes structures had seen prices advance so that, while the Library cost $578,784, the smaller Keyes Building called for $584,061. Although the Lovejoy Building, in size and floor space, was almost a duplicate of the Keyes Building, the later construction necessitated expending $750,000, and even then the cost was kept down by watchful care that effected substantial savings.

If the thirty-one buildings now in use on Mayflower Hill had been built anew as late as 1960, they would have cost more than twenty million dollars.

Where did the money come from? It came from several thousand individuals and from many corporations and organizations. After the Development Campaign became the Mayflower Hill Campaign, under the direction of Marts and Lundy, various campaigns were organized. There was an alumni drive for $300,000 to build the Roberts Memorial Union; an alumnae solicitation of $100,000 for the Women’s Union; and a Maine Million campaign for dormitories.
Later the College organized its own Development Office and pursued a continuous appeal for funds, with only occasional assistance from any professional firm. The expanded Development Fund of 1929 had brought in a tidy sum as a sort of Mayflower Hill nest egg. The depression years saw slow but steady accumulation of the needed dollars. Before 1940, Mr. Lorimer had given $200,000 for the Chapel, Dr. and Mrs. Averill had provided $100,000 for the Women’s Gymnasium, Mrs. James King had given $150,000 toward the Library, and Merton Miller had assured its completion. Alumni and Alumnae had made possible the two unions.

A brochure bearing the title “A Venture of Faith,” published in 1939, set the cost of “the complete new Colby” at five million dollars, and except for inflated prices that estimate would not have been far wrong. A 1940 folder, “Something to See in Maine,” stated that gifts from 3,839 persons had gone into the development at that stage. In the midst of World War II was issued “A Matter of Will Power,” a stirring appeal for bequests. After the Japanese surrender another folder, “The Soundest Post-War Project in America,” announced vigorous resumption of the campaign.

After all activities were finally moved to the Hill in 1952, the slogan became “On the Hill, but not Over the Top.” Still needed were a building for humanities and social sciences, one for art and music, and a third for administration. Vital was the need to increase faculty salaries and to supply additional funds for scholarship aid. Hence the decision to launch the Fulfillment Campaign with an ultimate goal of five million dollars. The immediate task was to raise half the amount, $2,500,000—a million and a half for buildings and a million for added endowment to assure salary increases and more scholarship aid. Although sound advisers told the Development Office that it would be impossible to raise two and a half million before 1960, since only in 1958 did the campaign get well under way, the Commencement in 1959 saw the glorious success of that campaign, when at the Alumni Luncheon Mr. Edward McMillan, vice-president of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, presented to President Bixler a check for $100,000 from the Charles Edward Merrill Trust. That check put the Fulfillment Campaign over the top. Its success assured the completion of the Lovejoy and the Art and Music Buildings, and a start on the Administration Building. At the same time, substantial increase was made in the endowment funds, thus assuring definite steps toward increased faculty salaries and larger financial aid to students.

At his retirement in 1942, President Johnson performed a sacrificial act that stirred the admiration of thousands of readers of Time and other national publications. He turned back to the College the entire amount he had received in salary during the thirteen years of his presidency. Not only the astute planning, the unrelenting zeal, and inexhaustible faith of Franklin Johnson went into Mayflower Hill; he added to those qualities the tangible contribution of his hard earned money.

Securing the more than nine million dollars which went into the building of the Mayflower Hill plant was not merely a task of insistent, patient fund raising; not merely a venture of faith. The whole Mayflower Hill story is a saga of victory over repeated frustration. There came first the bitter disappointment of the Taylor estate, then the long, lean years of depression. When war came, not only must further solicitation cease, but grave questions arose as to the validity of pledges already made. For instance, after the Japanese flooded Merton Miller’s gold mines in the Philippines, would he ever be able to fulfill his
promise to complete the Library? Nor did the moments of frustration end after the war. Oral promises were sometimes not carried out, because the promiser died without leaving bequest to the College or other written record. A single donor had been expected to give the money necessary to build the Life Sciences Building, but financial disaster overtook him before he could carry out his Colby plans. Franklin Johnson, Seelye Bixler, and all others who had a part in the active solicitation of funds must have felt often as Jeremiah Chaplin felt when he was turned away from a Portland home without subscription and was heard to say, "God help Waterville College." But at last it was done; every barrier was surmounted; every frustrated experience was only a memory. Franklin Johnson's dominant, unquestioning faith had been justified. The money was somehow raised. Colby's new campus became a reality.

Franklin Johnson always insisted that Mayflower Hill was not his accomplishment alone, and of course he was right. Foremost of all those who stood at Johnson's side through good days and bad was Arthur Galen Eustis. A graduate of the College in 1923, he had soon returned as a young instructor in Economics and Business Administration, had risen to full professor and head of the Business Administration Department, had then become Treasurer and finally Vice-President of the College. For more than twenty years, until his untimely death in 1959, Galen Eustis had an active part in the plans, contracts and construction of every building erected on Mayflower Hill. He developed an intimate friendship with Fredrick Larson, the architect, and with the representatives of Hegeman-Harris and other construction firms. He was especially shrewd in watching details of costs and expenditures, fighting to a hundred victories on minor points of contracts which in the aggregate saved the College thousands of dollars. Year after year Eustis took no vacation, staying on the job all summer to see that Colby got a hundred cents' worth of return for every expended dollar. In giving deserving tribute to Franklin Johnson, it is easy to overlook the man who, day after relentless day, performed the drudging details that made Johnson's dream come true. Every brick among the twenty million on Mayflower Hill is a kind of memorial to that man who loved Colby more than his own life, Arthur Galen Eustis. Appropriately the new administration building is dedicated to his memory.

Then there was Johnson's successor, President Julius Seelye Bixler. Like Johnson, he had been committed to the academic life, and like the man from Columbia this man from Harvard found himself suddenly cast in the unfamiliar role of money raiser. He attacked that duty just as vigorously as he confronted the problem of Colby's academic improvement, and it was by his personal efforts that several of the larger gifts were assured.

The task could not have been accomplished without the vigorous, unwavering support of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Averill not only gave generously of his money, but also of his time and his talents, especially during the period when he served as the Board's chairman. Herbert Wadsworth and George Otis Smith, chairmen during the trying years from 1926 to 1944, never lost hope that the project would eventually succeed. When Neil Leonard succeeded Dr. Averill as chairman in 1946, he led the Board for fourteen years in determined, successful effort to bring Mayflower Hill to magnificent fulfillment. Other Board members were equally zealous. If the reader will turn to Appendix V and note the names of all persons who served on the Board of Trustees between 1930 and 1960, he will be impressed by that list of prominent, devoted persons who guided the destiny of Colby during those thirty crucial years.
At the November meeting of the Trustees in 1935 it was voted “that a field man be employed from the Marts and Lundy organization to visit friends of the College prior to the renewal of the General Campaign.” That field man was E. Allan Lightner, who for twenty-five years continued to be the spark-plug of Colby’s money-raising program. In June, 1938, the Board voted to continue its contract with Marts and Lundy, with the understanding that the contract should include the valuable services of Mr. Lightner. In 1940, when the Trustees decided to terminate their official relation with Marts and Lundy, Mr. Lightner was induced to leave that organization and become Assistant to the President for Development at Colby. A man of tremendous energy and zeal, he became responsible, through the years, not only for many thousands of dollars in subscriptions, but also for a long range policy of establishing good will, whereby subsequent gifts and legacies flowed into the college treasury in ever increasing amounts. While soliciting funds for the Mayflower Hill plant, Mr. Lightner never neglected the need for endowment, and his efforts resulted in securing a considerable portion of the increased endowment funds during the building period.

Three other persons were prominent in the Mayflower Hill campaigns: Publicity Director Joseph Coburn Smith; his wife, the Alumnae Secretary, Ervena Goodale Smith; and the Alumni Secretary, G. Cecil Goddard. It was Joe Smith’s artistry and ingenuity which produced many of the attractive folders and brochures, and as editor of the Colby Alumnus he kept the developing picture of Mayflower Hill constantly before the alumni. Joe was an expert photographer, whose work won prizes in national publications. His long-exposure photograph, showing the stars moving across the tower of Lorimer Chapel will long be remembered by readers of Life. Taking movies of construction as it progressed on the Hill, Joe put together a permanent movie record of the Mayflower Hill story, which was exhibited at alumni meetings and public gatherings, as well as to each entering class for several years.

Ervena Goodale Smith, as Alumnae Secretary, devoted her considerable talent and her charming personality to the interests of Colby women, too long neglected for the activities and welfare of the college men. She had good reason to labor valorously in behalf of the Women’s Division. Not only was she herself a Colby graduate, but her husband’s aunt, Louise Helen Coburn, was at that time the most prominent among all Colby alumnae. Miss Coburn had been one of the earliest women students, the first woman trustee, and had led the successful campaign to prevent abolition of the Women’s Division in the 1890’s. With that goodly heritage Ervena Smith was determined that the women should have full recognition and proper housing on Mayflower Hill. Allied with such valiant workers as Dean Ninetta Runnals and Miss Florence Dunn, Mrs. Smith directed the alumnae campaign for $100,000 to erect the Women’s Union, and united Colby women as never before.

G. Cecil Goddard, soon after his graduation from Colby in 1929, was brought back to the College as its first full-time Alumni Secretary. Although he found it a sufficiently arduous task to organize the alumni files, set up regional organizations, and institute an alumni fund, he found himself soon plunged violently into the Mayflower Hill campaign. It was no easy job to raise $300,000 from graduates and former students of the College, even with the name of Arthur Roberts as an attraction. That the effort was successful and the Roberts Union secured was due in no small measure to the ability and devotion of Cecil Goddard.

Although many others gave unstintingly of time and energy to the Mayflower Hill fulfillment, commendation is especially due to five men who, through...
the later years of the Bixler administration rendered significant service: Ellsworth "Bill" Millett, who followed Goddard as Alumni Secretary; Richard N. Dyer, a non-Colby man who had come to know and love Colby with a devotion equal to that of the staunchest graduate; Edward H. Turner, Director of Development, whose calm equanimity, sound judgment, and grim persistence assured the success of the Fulfillment Campaign; Ralph Williams, who succeeded the late Galen Eustis as Vice-President, and completed Eustis' carefully laid plans; and George E. Whalon, Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings, who had direct charge of the erection of the Lovejoy, the Art and Music, and the Administration buildings, and did the job as well as, if not better than, a high-priced construction firm had done with earlier structures.

On the broad slopes of Mayflower Hill thirty-one modern buildings give tangible proof that faith brings results and that faith without work is dead. Frank Johnson's dream of 1929 is now a magnificent reality. But Dr. Johnson would himself be the first to say that buildings do not make a college. In his memorable essay, "If I Had Three Days to Live," he wrote: "I know that a college does not consist of bricks and stone, but is a vital thing, with a background of traditions and emotions, built up through the years by men and women of faith and courage carrying on the unending search for truth and the good life."
CHAPTER XXXVIII

A New President And A New War

It seems to be fated that Colby presidents shall take office in difficult times. James Champlin stepped up from professor to president just as the slavery issue was plunging the nation into civil war. His successor, Henry Robins, had just agreed to accept the office when the Panic of 1873 brought depression and hardship. The financial panic of twenty years later greeted President Whitman, and Franklin Johnson in 1929 was faced with the most serious and longest sustained depression the country has ever known.

Prospects for Colby were bright when the Chairman of the Trustees, George Otis Smith, publicly announced on June 26, 1941, that the Board had selected as Johnson’s successor Julius Seelye Bixler, Bussey Professor of Theology at the Divinity School of Harvard University. Before the new president had taken office in July, 1942, Japanese bombs had descended upon Pearl Harbor. As had happened in 1917, students were again leaving college for the armed services; tension and uncertainty pervaded the campus. The eagerly awaited construction on Mayflower Hill had to be suspended. There was even doubt whether the Men’s Division could continue with anything approaching a liberal arts program or, as had happened twenty-five years earlier, would again become an armed camp.

The new president was, however, ready for the emergency. Like President Johnson, Bixler had served in the armed services in World War I. His first use of the “President’s Page” in the Colby Alumnus, in July, 1942, showed exactly where he stood in respect to the national crisis.

The changes the war has brought are bound to have a drastic effect on all our colleges. We must be prepared to see changes take place at Colby. My own hope and belief is that they will come as a natural unfolding of the purposes for which Colby has always stood. Colby has steadily believed in the Christian and democratic way of life and has effectively shown what it is like. This college must continue to teach that way of life in a manner that the modern generation, in spite of its disillusionment, can understand. We shall respond with enthusiasm to any demands of the government. At the same time I feel that we shall best serve our country if we try to keep alive the spirit that has always characterized the liberal arts college in the detachment of its search for truth. We shall do everything we can to help win the war. We shall try also to cultivate those qualities which will be needed to win and maintain a just peace. Colby has been through war before and has emerged triumphant. We should be faint-hearted indeed if we thought it could not be done again.
The Trustees had taken plenty of time to select the right man to succeed Franklin Johnson. The “Father of Mayflower Hill” had wished to retire in June, 1941, but the Trustees persuaded him to remain for another year. When it came time for the annual meeting of the Board at Commencement in 1941, their committee to nominate a new president had already made a choice, but they knew, if he could be persuaded to accept at all, their man could not begin his Colby duties until the summer of 1942.

When the Trustees met on June 13, 1941, it was Neil Leonard who reported for the committee.

Mr. Leonard reported that efforts were being made to secure a president of the College to succeed Dr. Johnson, who desired to retire previously to this time, but had consented to remain for another year. The committee had made extensive and conscientious effort to secure a man qualified for this extremely important position and had finally selected Dr. Julius Seelye Bixler, presently Acting Dean of the Harvard Divinity School.

Voted, that the Committee on Progress of the College, or a sub-committee thereof, be authorized to interview Julius Seelye Bixler and if, in their judgment, it is expedient, to tender him the office of President.

A fortnight later, on June 26, Chairman Smith was able to announce Dr. Bixler’s acceptance. He was thus given a full year to acquaint himself with the history, traditions, curriculum, and present aims of the College before President Johnson handed over the reins on July 1, 1942.

Although every intelligent reader of the newspapers knew that war clouds loomed in the autumn of 1941, and although Colby like many another college was participating in accelerated defense measures, such as the Civilian Pilot Training Program, the attack on Pearl Harbor was as genuine a surprise on the campus as it was elsewhere over the nation. The College reacted immediately. Conscious that two preceding wars had seen hectic rush to enlistment, thinning the student ranks, college officers strongly advised students not to make too hasty decisions. On the weekend of Pearl Harbor, President Johnson was out of town on college business, and it fell to Dean Marriner to address the men students on December 9. He said in part:

Colby men will again do their full duty. Several of our alumni are now stationed at Pearl Harbor and at Manila. It is grimly possible that some may already have lost their lives. We cannot be blind to the fact that some of you will before another year be in uniform. But it is not your duty to rush off for enlistment. President Conant of Harvard has said, “Those students who hurredly join the army do their nation irreparable damage by the misuse of their talents.” This is indeed no time for a renunciation of higher education. Now, if ever, the nation has need of trained minds. It is for you to take a private oath of allegiance to serious college work, as our friends and relatives in the service take public oath of allegiance to military duty. Then, when the nation does call you into its armed services, you will indeed be ready.

There must be no jitteriness, no confusion, no futile bull sessions about what we shall do next, when the obvious next is tomorrow's lessons. Not with fear, not with uncertainty, certainly not with indifference, we
shall meet whatever call our nation makes upon us. With calm yet alert courage, as Elijah Lovejoy faced the mob at Alton, as William Parker faced the Confederate charge at Spottsylvania, as Murray Morgan faced German bayonets at Mons, we too shall meet the challenge of our day. Before we are Dekes or Zetes or members of any other fraternity, before we are Protestants or Catholics or Jews, even before we are Colby men, we are Americans, and as Americans we shall not fail.

As has been previously mentioned, a later chapter will deal with Colby's national contribution in three wars. It is the province of this chapter to show the impact of World War II on the College.

The official position continued to be encouragement of men students to remain in college and of high school graduates to start their college course. In the summer of 1942 Colby published a circular entitled “Questions of the Day.” In answer to the question whether it was patriotic to attend college when the country was at war, the circular quoted President Franklin Roosevelt: “Young people should be advised that it is their patriotic duty to continue the normal course of their education, unless and until they are called, so that they will be prepared for greater usefulness to their country.” It was pointed out that the military services had a high opinion of college graduates, and could make significant use of them. Reference was made to the flight training program recently introduced at Colby.

Despite this sound advice, the college enrollment proceeded to drop sharply. One reason was the uncertainty and confusion surrounding the Selective Service Act passed early in 1941. The act gave no preference to college men as such, but it became the practice of many local draft boards to defer college students, especially those preparing for medicine or dentistry, or those majoring in the physical sciences. Because each draft board was for all essential purposes an autonomous body, with appeal boards usually supporting local decisions, deferment was by no means predictable, and students became increasingly jittery. As early as February, 1941, President Johnson had publicly stated: “The effect of the draft law upon attendance of students now in college and the entrance of new students next year is uncertain and to some extent ominous. Lack of uniformity in the practice of draft boards in the matter of exemptions and deferments leads to confusion. Although there is talk of legislation to defer students until completion of their courses, this seems improbable.”

In March President Johnson announced to the faculty that the College would not ask for military exemptions. When several members suggested that such an attitude would be disastrous to enrollment, Johnson told them not to get excited. “Our job,” he said, “is to maintain a sane atmosphere in the performance of our task of educating young people.”

Long before Commencement in 1942 men students had begun to leave the campus. At the April meeting of the Board President Johnson reported that the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps had repeatedly sent recruiting officers to the campus. He said that 37 students presented themselves to the Navy recruiters in one day, and that the Marines had obtained more than twice their expected quota. Although the situation was somewhat alleviated by enlistment in various reserve corps, especially that of the Navy, whereby the enrolled men were permitted to remain in college for varying lengths of time, the student ranks suf-
fered continuous depletion. Those who remained in college found it increasingly
difficult to settle down to serious classroom work.

As the demand for an enormous army increased and casualties mounted,
college deferments became more rare, and many a student hastened to enlist in
a branch of the service which he preferred rather than wait to be drafted. When
the fall term opened in 1944, there were only 55 civilian men in College. They
and the 227 women made a total normal enrollment of 282, the smallest in more
than twenty years. The following table shows graphically the war's effect upon
Colby enrollment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1940</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1941</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1942</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1943</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1944</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty members, especially the younger ones, felt the call to military duty.
Before the war ended, nine members of the staff had entered the armed services:
Registrar Elmer C. Warren and Professor Alfred K. Chapman in the Army Air
Force; Coach Edward C. Roundy in the Military Police; Professor Norman Palmer,
Music Director John Thomas and Coach Nelson Nitchman in the Navy; Director of Health and Physical Education Gilbert F. Loebs to a post in the
physical training of army men; Assistant Librarian Harold Clark and Instructor
Samuel Morse in the Army. Through their Committee on Instruction the Trus­
tees granted leaves of absence to these men.

Naturally the war affected college finances. Tuition income of $168,828
in June, 1941 had dropped to $75,872 in June, 1944. The situation was alleviated
by the loss of faculty members to the services, by the temporary leave of other
faculty members to engage in defense industry, and by the assignment to Colby
in 1943 of a college detachment of the Army Air Force. The stringency was
further relieved by the adoption of a year-round college calendar and by the
admission of freshmen three times a year.

Before President Bixler took office, Johnson had led the faculty to adopt
a three-term calendar, through which each term would be equivalent to one of
the customary semesters, thereby enabling a student so to accelerate that he could
complete the eight normal semesters in two and two-thirds calendar years. The
college year of 1941-42 ended on May 24. A summer term of twelve weeks
was conducted from June 1 to September 2, and the fall term began three days
later on September 6.

Two consequences of the new calendar were the necessity of holding three
commencements a year and the decision to admit freshmen at the beginning of
each term. What happened was well described in President Bixler's report to the
Trustees in June, 1943.

Just as a student may enter college in September, February, or June, so
we now must provide Commencement exercises in December, May, and
August. The number graduating on each occasion will be small, but
we desire to give each group of seniors as many of the usual com­
mencement privileges as possible.
In the spring of 1942 the faculty voted to conduct a summer term of twelve weeks, under the direction of Professor Carl J. Weber. We have adopted the policy of admitting freshmen in June and have gone so far as to allow some qualified seniors to enter in February before completion of their high school course. In June 1942 we admitted twenty-four freshman men and nine women; in February twenty-two freshman men, of whom fourteen lacked the final semester in high school, and four women; in June 1943 we took seventeen men and eight women. The summer term was an outstanding success. The absence of extracurricular activities has meant fewer distractions; the continuous study of one subject six days a week, instead of the usual three hours on alternate days, has given a sense of uninterrupted growth, and the smaller classes have allowed more discussion. The faculty generously voted their services without compensation for the summer term of 1942. For the summer of 1943 a small bonus has been made available.

In November, 1944, the faculty voted and the Trustees agreed, to return to a normal college program of two semesters a year and not to operate a summer term in 1945. Faculty and students alike agreed that the accelerated program had placed too great strain on both teachers and students and that, except in dire emergency, the results did not justify the expedient.

The war had understandable effects upon the curriculum. Immediately after Pearl Harbor the faculty set up a Committee on Curriculum and Defense. As early as January, 1942, that committee had made the following recommendations: (1) that restrictions on taking a sixth course be removed for the duration of the war, and that in unusual circumstances even a seventh course be permitted; (2) that major requirements be adjusted to permit students to enroll in courses preparatory to meeting military requirements; (3) that physical education be required of all students during their entire college course; (4) that so-called war-credit be granted only to students who should "meet such tests as the College shall prescribe," but that in cases where a degree became a distinct advantage to a student, "some departure from this practice may be justified." Regulations governing year courses were rescinded for the duration, and every course was placed on a term basis.

The Government soon began to emphasize the importance of mathematics and the physical sciences, and those fields were immediately strengthened at Colby. A course in mathematics below the usual college level was taught, to stimulate interest in the subject among students whose secondary school preparation in that area had been faulty. Courses were introduced also in Descriptive Astronomy, Geography, History of the Far East, Consumer Economics, and Advanced Accounting. In December, 1942, the faculty voted to allow credit toward graduation for courses in typewriting and shorthand, subjects hitherto taught at Colby without academic credit.

Alert to the possibility that enlistment and draft would drain the college of its male enrollment, the authorities began at once to urge the choice of Colby as one of the colleges in which the armed services might operate one or another of its training programs. These persistent efforts resulted in the selection of Colby as one of a limited group of colleges for the installation of a unit of the College Training Program of the Army Air Force.

Colby was indeed ready for such a program. As early as 1939 courses had been introduced in cooperation with the Civil Aeronautics Authority and the operators of the Waterville Airport. Under the direction of Professor Win-
throp Stanley of the Department of Physics, basic courses were given at the College to men enrolling especially in the program, and flight instruction was given at the airport. By 1941 the program had so developed that the Navy sent a small detachment of junior officers to receive the same training.

The Air Force program, started at Colby early in 1943, intended that one hundred enlisted men should arrive each month from a basic training center until the total number in the detachment should reach 500; that each group should remain five months, receiving four months of academic training in English, mathematics, physics, geography, and U. S. history, along with basic military instruction, and a final month of flight training. Each successful student would, on completion of the course, receive a certificate of recommendation to Pre-Flight School of the Army Air Force.

The program turned out to be on paper only. In practice its realization was never achieved. Only one of more than twenty groups that started the program received the full five months of training. The other groups were deactivated within one to three months, according to the service needs for men. One of the most discouraging, yet apparently necessary decisions, was the sudden transfer of these student trainees out of the air arm altogether and the hasty placing of them in infantry regiments.

The irregularity of the program justified the decision of the college authorities when the original contract was signed with the Government in January, 1943. That decision was that the enlisted men sent to the campus for training under the program would not be enrolled as students of Colby College, because the college had no voice in their admission and no opportunity even to suggest academic standards of selection. The Twenty-first College Training Detachment of the Army Air Force, activated at Colby College on February 27, 1943, was therefore, for all purposes, a separate institution utilizing the college facilities.

The college officer in general charge of the contract was the Treasurer, A. Galen Eustis. Ernest C. Marriner was relieved of part of his duties as Dean of Men and was made Academic Dean of the Detachment. It became the Dean's duty to select a faculty, only a few of whom could be obtained by transfer from the regular staff. For instance, the College had only two teachers in physics. The Army program demanded a physics staff of eighteen. Somehow they were obtained, although a number of them had little training in the subject. Among the recruited physics teachers, however, was one with an American doctorate and another with his doctor's degree from one of the oldest European universities. Since the Army demanded weekly report of marks, the mere assembling and recording of records became a formidable task in the office of the Academic Dean. To relieve Marriner of some of his conventional duties, Professor Walter Breckenridge was appointed Assistant Dean of Men.

In order to house the CTD soldiers, it was necessary that Foss Hall be completely vacated, and fortunately the new dormitories for women and the Women's Union had been so nearly completed that women moved into them in September, 1942, and by the mid-year point in February, they could be fully occupied. But Foss Hall was quite insufficient to house all the uniformed men. They spread out into Roberts Hall, Taylor House, and other buildings of the down-town property.

Readers may recall that the winter of 1942-43 saw double daylight saving time. Not only was the summer plan of one hour earlier by the clock continued into the winter, but an additional hour was observed. Therefore, when the CTD began classes at 8 A.M., it was actually only 6 A.M. by standard time.
When those soldier boys first camped in the dead of winter at Colby, they completed one class and part of another every morning, from Monday to Friday, before streaks of daylight appeared in the east over the roofs of the Hollingsworth mill.

Although the assigned troops were not enrolled students in the College, President Bixler was determined that they should be treated as members of "the Colby family." Entertainment was generously provided; many were invited into Waterville homes; and the old DKE House on College Avenue was turned into USO headquarters under the able direction of Professor Herbert "Pop" Newman. In the spring of 1944 the detachment's baseball team won wide acclaim with its undefeated schedule and its pitcher, who seemed headed for the big leagues. When the war was over many of the more than 2000 men who were attached to this Colby program recalled their experience on the campus as the happiest of their entire wartime days.

Relations between the academic officers and teachers and the military personnel were most cordial, as were the relations of both with the flight instructors at the Waterville Airport, which was soon renamed for Captain Robert Lafleur, a Colby graduate killed on an air mission over the Mediterranean. The Commanding Officer of the detachment was happily chosen. A banker in civilian life, Captain E. T. Patterson understood the nature of a liberal arts college. Though a good disciplinarian, he was not a military martinet, and he was assisted by a group of subordinate officers who were also college men, while the non-commissioned officers of his staff were men of experience in regulations and routine.

In February, 1944, when the CTD had been at Colby only a year, the Government decided to discontinue the program in all the colleges where it had been inaugurated. By June, 1944, about a year before the German surrender, the last of the uniformed men left the Colby campus. The program had been too short for complete appraisal, but a few accurate conclusions can safely be drawn. First, it was never a satisfactory academic program. The men were not carefully selected. In the first unit to arrive was a man who had attended high school only one year alongside another who held a bachelor's degree from Oxford University in England. It took several weeks for the Academic Dean to convince the military authorities that such men should not take the same academic subjects. Secondly, individual men and whole units were withdrawn at what seemed to be the mere whim of armchair officers in the higher echelons at Maxwell Field, Alabama, or in Washington. Thirdly, there was no adequate orientation program to convince those cynical young men of the value of academic subjects for trainees on their way to probable death in the "Battle of Britain."

The program actually proved more valuable from the viewpoint of the Army than from that of the College. Army inspectors called the Colby detachment "the best such unit in the country." Later the men themselves were high in their praise of the instruction, especially in physics and mathematics, and many of them attributed their later success as pilots or navigators to the basic instruction they received in a few short weeks at Colby.

As soon as the college authorities learned that the CTD program would close in the early summer of 1944, they turned their attention to the possible use by the Government of facilities on Mayflower Hill. The Navy appeared to be interested, and the Trustees authorized a special committee, of which William S. Newell, President of the Bath Ironworks, was a prominent member, to nego-
tiate with the Navy concerning the proposal to complete and utilize the Mayflower Hill plant as a Naval hospital with a thousand beds.

Fortunately the proposal was not adopted. Had such a hospital been developed on Mayflower Hill, the plan for normal, civilian use of the new site might have been delayed by many years. Although no one could foresee in the spring of 1944 that in another year the war would be ended, that eventuality made possible early resumption of the College's own building program and the gradual removal of all college activities to the Hill. A big Naval hospital would have made that early resumption impossible.

Surprisingly the first president of Colby got into World War II. On October 31, 1943, there was launched at South Portland, with appropriate ceremonies attended by President Bixler and other college officials, the Liberty Ship Jeremiah Chaplin. Faculty and alumni presented a collection of books for the ship's library. It was a fitting observance of the 125th anniversary of the starting of classes by Jeremiah Chaplin in 1818.

No sooner had Colby students left the campus for military service than they began to clamor for academic credit because of war experience. The issue had to be faced by every American college, and at first, rather chaotically, each college acted alone; but early in 1942 a National Conference of College and University Presidents adopted a resolution to which Colby and most other colleges subscribed.

Credit shall be awarded only to individuals who, upon completion of military service, shall apply to the institution for credit and who shall meet such tests as the institution may prescribe.

By May in 1943 the colleges were generally opposed to blanket credit for "simply being in the service." Therefore the Colby faculty then voted:

The Faculty of Colby College records its approval of the objectives of the U.S. Armed Forces Institute for continuing education in the armed services, and agrees to give consideration to the educational records of service men as tested and described in each individual case by the Institute, reserving the right to evaluate credit for such records towards the Colby degree according to the practice and standards of Colby College. This faculty disapproves the granting of so-called blanket credit to men in the armed services without regard to actual educational achievement.

That decision regularized and standardized the granting of war credit. A national commission on credit for military experience and education in the services was set up, and that commission, in cooperation with USAFI, published periodically comprehensive lists of suggested credits, both at high school and college level. It was the practice at Colby to follow almost completely those national suggestions.

The Committee on Standing, though inclined to apply the USAFI regulations rather strictly, did grant a number of exceptions. Among the most interesting was the case of a ministerial student who had met all graduation requirements except passing the Reading Knowledge Examination in a foreign language. The man had tried that examination twice, and had failed it both times. He was, in the spring of 1944, the pastor of a church in York County and he wanted to
become a chaplain in the Navy. The Commission of Army and Navy Chaplains in Washington had notified the College that they could not appoint as chaplain a man who did not hold a college degree, and they asked Colby to consider the early granting of the degree to this otherwise worthy applicant for a chaplaincy. The faculty voted to recommend to the Trustees the granting of this man's degree, waiving the Reading Knowledge requirement. That there were plenty of die-hards for rigid academic requirements even in war time is shown by the fact that the faculty vote was by no means unanimous. While eighteen members voted to waive the requirement, eleven stalwarts voted No.

The foreign language requirement continued to be a bone of contention until in the fall of 1944 the faculty voted that, at the discretion of the Committee on Standing, the requirement could be waived in the case of any former Colby student returning to the College after honorable discharge from military service, provided such student could otherwise complete his degree requirements in one additional term of residence.

By February, 1945, the College had acted upon 64 war credit cases, and had allowed credit for such programs as the Army Air Force CTD and Flight Schools, for Weather Forecasters' School, for various Officers Candidate Schools, for the Physical Training Instructors' Course, for the Navy V-12 Program, for Midshipmen's School, for Naval Supply and Storekeeper's Schools, and more than a dozen other kinds of service training.

One of the most important effects of World War II on the College was the enrollment of numerous veterans as a result of the so-called "G. I. Bill of Rights," the several public laws passed by the Congress to enable veterans to secure education and training after discharge from service. The soldiers of World War I had enjoyed no such privilege, and economic conditions in the early 1920's had hit some of them very hard. Too many of those men who had started college before 1917 failed to return after the war. But after the close of the war in 1945 the situation was vastly different. Men who wished to return to college and those who wished to begin a college course could now do so with liberal financial assistance from the Government.

A tiny trickle of veterans enrolled in September, 1945, but it was February of 1946 before as many as fifty registered at Colby. The faculty were at once happily surprised. Instead of being cynical and supercritical, ready to take any short cut to a degree, these men who had faced death in combat were extremely serious and determined to get the highest values from a college experience. It is true that they were irked by the conventional social restrictions and that, especially at first, they were impatient with abstractions and intent upon immediate, practical returns. But as time went on their profound seriousness and determination affected favorably the whole campus scene.

In June, 1946, the faculty voted that, for any veteran who on return to college could otherwise complete all graduation requirements in a single semester, the foreign language requirement should be waived; and that those who could complete the degree requirements in one full year need take only the first year of a foreign language in college.

By 1956 more than 1200 veterans of World War II and the Korean War had enrolled at Colby under one or another of the Congressional acts granting educational assistance to veterans. Among them the attrition was much less than it had been before the war among civilian students. A surprising proportion of the service men carried through to graduation, and some of the achievements were amazing. One boy had done so poorly before entering service that,
although originally attending for two and a half years, he could be given only a year and a half of credit when the Committee on Standing reluctantly permitted him to return as a veteran. He completed his degree requirements in two years, with almost a straight "A" record. More than twenty boys who had been dropped from college before the war for failure to meet academic standards were given a second chance when they reapplied as veterans. There was not a single repeated failure in the entire group.

The greatest problem faced by the College because of the predominant pressure of veterans was social rather than academic. In scholarship they were an inspiration to the eighteen-year-olds who came fresh from high school. But those teenagers were all too prone to imitate the social habits acquired by the older fellows under the stress of military service. The two groups were as oil and water in the difficulty of their mixing. Only when the younger group became again predominant, did campus life become normal.

In spite of the difficulties, Colby came through the war without serious harm. To be sure, completion of the new campus was delayed, male enrollment suffered, classroom work was sometimes disrupted; but when the fighting was over, the College proved itself ready and capable to enter upon the greatest period of achievement and national acclaim in its long history.
CHAPTER XXXIX

Fitting Colby To Its New Clothes

JULIUS SEELEY BIXLER was not the first of Colby's scholarly presidents. Both Albion Woodbury Small and Nathaniel Butler, Jr., won national fame as scholars, and long before the twentieth century James Tift Champlin had gained recognition as a translator and writer of scholarly papers in the field of Greek and Roman classics. But Bixler was the first Colby president to have achieved scholarly fame before he entered the presidential office. Confidently trustees, faculty and alumni looked to him to make Colby a college academically worthy of its splendid new campus. Their hopes were not in vain. Under Seelye Bixler the college was made to fit its new suit of clothes.

Born in 1894, the son of the Reverend James Wilson Bixler, prominent Congregational clergyman of New Hampshire and a member of both branches of that state's legislature, Julius Seelye Bixler was graduated from Amherst College in 1916, then spent a year as instructor at the American College in Madura, India. In 1917 he was studying at Union Theological Seminary when he felt the call to enter his country's military service. After discharge he became a graduate student at Amherst, at the same time serving as Director of Religious Activities at his alma mater. He received the Master of Arts degree from Amherst in 1920. During the next two years he was lecturer at the American University in Beirut, Syria. Matriculating for his doctorate in the field of philosophy at Yale, he received his Ph.D. degree in 1924, and at once joined the faculty of Smith College, where he remained for nine years and was rapidly promoted to a full professorship in religion and biblical literature. During sabbatical leave in 1928-29 he studied at the University of Freiburg, Germany. In 1933 he joined the faculty of the Harvard Divinity School as Bussey Professor of Theology. During a leave of absence in 1938 he conducted research at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. Amherst College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1939.

When he came to Colby, Dr. Bixler was already widely known as the author of important books and articles on philosophy and religion. Enthusiastic reviews had greeted his books Religion in the Philosophy of William James, Immortality and the Present Mood, and Religion for Free Minds. He had been a contributor to the opening number of The American Scholar, quarterly publication of the Phi Beta Kappa Society; a co-editor of The Nature of Religious Experience; and a contributor of important chapters in such books as Religious Realism, The Church Through Half a Century, and the volume on Whitehead in the Library of Living Philosophers.

Throughout his eighteen years as President of Colby College, Dr. Bixler continued his scholarly pursuits both as writer and lecturer. Books and articles
came steadily from his pen, and he was in demand as lecturer for some of the most famous endowed university programs. Twice he was named as one of the highly selected leaders to conduct the Seminar in American Studies at Salzburg, Austria. By his own illustrious example Seelye Bixler set an unprecedented mark of creative scholarship upon a small Maine college.

The hectic days when classes were held on both the old and the new campus are now like a remembered nightmare although, as the fictional Hyman Kaplan would have expressed it, the “daymare” was bad enough. Alumni recollections of the “Blue Beetle” are not entirely pleasant, for that college-owned bus was frequently breaking down or freezing up. Happy was the day when the College decided to go out of the transportation business and negotiated a contract with a local company for that service. At the height of the service, when the same students had to be moved back and forth between the two campuses several times a day, the buses made as many as sixteen round trips. As long as any college work continued on the old campus or any students still resided there, the bus service had to be operated. From its beginning in 1942, that service was uninterrupted for ten years. Not until the erection of the Life Sciences Building in 1952 and the opening of Foss and Woodman Halls was the old campus abandoned and the bus service stopped. That facility had been a costly necessity, draining the college treasury of an average of $15,000 a year for a total of $150,000.

In September, 1945, the College returned to its normal pre-war calendar, opening on September 22. Enrollment increased rapidly, to 895 in 1946, and to 1084 in 1947. By 1956 the number had reached 1132.

As the years went by, the proportion of Maine students continued to decrease, in spite of preference, especially in respect to scholarship aid, given to students from within the state. All the private colleges of Maine were losing native boys and girls to the state university, where expenses were much lower. In 1956, Colby had 370 students from Massachusetts and only 231 from Maine. From New York came 137 boys and girls; from Connecticut 144; from New Jersey 85. Altogether the Colby students in that year came from 26 states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, and six foreign countries. The total enrollment of 1132 was composed of 657 men and 475 women.

In the Alumnus President Bixler, in 1957, gave his opinion of the enrollment situation:

We will never knowingly expand to a point where we lose the obvious advantage of the kind of community life where teachers know their students and students know each other. We will not expand if it means lowering our standards of admission. But there are three strong reasons for considering a gradual increase in size. First, Colby must assume its share of responsibility for the increasing numbers who seek a college education. Secondly, the addition of two or three hundred students would enable us to administer the college more economically. Thirdly, an expansion would give us more diversified offerings in the curriculum and would provide more student leaders for our various activities. If we should increase eventually to 1500 students, I do not think the size would be unmanageable. A co-educational college of 1500 can retain more of the advantages of a small college than one that is not co-educational. The units into which the community is broken up give the total life of the campus a different character. Let me emphasize that we cannot even begin to expand now. We are practically bursting at the seams. Expansion will not begin until we have the
buildings to be provided by the Fulfillment Program, and then it will be gradual and carefully controlled.¹

Not in the twentieth century had any president of Colby College behaved as if the institution were an ivory tower, but when Seelye Bixler became president, almost every college of liberal arts was accused of being a smug community isolated from life's realities. It was the era of the "egg heads," the "arm-chair idealists," the "dreamers who dream because they can't do things." A low premium was placed upon thought and contemplation. When Colby College elected a religious philosopher as its chief executive, it was easy for the public to think that not only ivory, but solid bone ivory had encased the College. But President Bixler at once revealed that his warm, friendly, humane qualities would never permit him to be a recluse scholar. In November, 1942, he stated his position publicly.

The 'Ivory Tower' idea of a college has been dealt a death blow. People see that the basic purpose of any college is to serve the needs of society. A college no longer has the right to serve a leisure class or to offer merely a cultural veneer or to deal only with the gracious amenities of life. Culture is as important as ever, and training in graciousness and the beauty of living will never cease to have a legitimate claim. Yet these are not primary aims, but rather by-products of the college man's task, which is that of rigorous discipline in thinking through the social problem. I am still old-fashioned enough to believe that boys and girls can be taught to think straight and be enabled to face the terrifically complex issues of our modern society with confidence that its problems can be solved.²

Although Dr. Bixler had taught at one of the largest colleges for women and at a large complex university, he recognized the worth of the small college. A full year before his inauguration as Colby's president, he had written:

I have always been impressed by the fact that the community life of a small college of liberal arts offers a chance for the development of social and intellectual attitudes which is not matched in any other form of educational enterprise. In a day of drastic social change, it seems to me that democracy needs these attitudes as never before. The small college cannot compete with the university in all respects, but it can respond more easily to new conditions without losing its basic loyalties. With its record of solid achievement and its courageous plans for the future, Colby is making a notable contribution to Maine and to the country as a whole.³

It was President's Bixler's conviction that Colby should give attention to the national trend toward courses in general education, prompted by the famous study at Harvard and the resulting program at that university. When Ernest Mar­riner became Dean of the Faculty in 1947, he had already been teaching for several years a general education course for freshmen, "Man and His World," and he eagerly joined the President in a campaign for more such interdepartmental courses at Colby. That campaign was only partially successful.

The course "Man and His World" became "Great Thinkers in the Western Tradition," a freshman course, but still elective, taught jointly by several departments in the Division of Social Sciences. Outstanding was "Creative Thinking,"
a course for a group of selected seniors. It worked so well that a similar course, equally selective, was introduced for freshmen. "Ethical Issues," a junior-senior course introduced into the Department of Philosophy and Religion, enlisted help from other departments. But other attempts to implement general education were not successful. Experimental courses in the sciences were soon given up. For two years an instructor, added to the faculty for the purpose, taught a general course in humanities, but it failed to win the approval and cooperation of the conventional departments in that division.

By 1960, although further experimentation with interdepartmental courses was open-mindedly accepted, the official position of the Colby faculty had become clear. A majority felt strongly that general education, in the sense of introducing the student to wide areas of knowledge, is best attained by a system of "distribution," whereby the student gets more than superficial information about a single subject within an area, rather than covers a survey of the whole area or selects samples from many subjects within it. The Colby way of facing general education continued to be the requirement of taking departmental courses in the three long established areas of knowledge: humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

The foreign language requirement received particular attention during the years immediately following the war. The requirement had previously been restricted to the modern languages, thus putting Greek and Latin in the unenviable position of not being recognized to meet the regulations. That discrimination ceased in 1945, when it was voted that "before a student becomes a candidate for a degree, he must show that he has a basic reading knowledge of one of the two classical languages or of one of the modern foreign languages taught at Colby." The requirement could be met by examination or by successful completion of a course above the elementary level (first year college course). There was also introduced an intensive course both in German and in Spanish, covering the work of the customary first two years in one year.

Caught up in the wave of enthusiasm for unique programs in the colleges, the Colby faculty for a time considered the possibility of a Colby Plan. Professor Paul Fullam went to Chicago to investigate the novel experiments of President Hutchins. Professor Norman Palmer studied the unique program at St. Johns. Committees took long looks at the changes taking place at Harvard, Yale and Princeton. The Colby faculty finally concluded not to institute a radical Colby plan, but to meet changing conditions by adapting new courses and new methods to the traditional liberal arts curriculum, based on the three divisions of humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

Among the new features adopted were year courses, the "C" rule, and a change in the marking system. In 1941 the faculty authorized the introduction of year-courses, requiring that such courses must be completed for a full year to return any credit. In 1947 the graduation requirement was changed from a certain number of semester hours to twenty year-courses or their equivalent in semester courses, and every course was considered equal to every other regardless of the number of classroom or laboratory hours. When the faculty first demanded that a student must have a mark of at least "C" in the courses of his major subject or be excluded from that major, they set up an escape hatch called a "Dean's Major," in which a student could be enrolled while trying to win restoration into his former major or acceptance into a new one. In 1946, on the insistence of the Dean of Men, who believed that the escape clause lowered Colby standards, the faculty voted that "any student who is dropped from a major
and fails to secure acceptance into another is not permitted to continue in college.”

In the fall of 1941 the faculty was stirred by proposals for a new marking system. Even the Japanese bombs at Pearl Harbor did not still the discussion. A faculty committee proposed to substitute the following system in place of the time honored A to F range: H, passed with honors; M, passed with merit; S, passed satisfactorily; P, barely passed; F, failed. At the meeting in January, 1942, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposal. Then the motion was withdrawn. What followed is revealed in the caustic minutes of that meeting recorded by the faculty secretary, Elmer C. Warren:

After further lengthy and somewhat humorous discussion, it was voted to abolish our present system of numerical marks. This action distinguished Colby as a college with no marking system. After a generous amount of bantering, it was moved and seconded that the letters ABCD be substituted for HMSP in the proposal, and we were right back where we had started.

The faculty finally voted to continue the old numerical system of 1 to 100, with marks reported to students, as formerly, by letters from A to F. In 1958 it was voted to do away with numerical marks, each instructor reporting to the Recorder’s office by letters from A to F, supplemented by plus and minus symbols.

One of President Bixler’s outstanding contributions to the Colby curriculum was his emphasis on art and music. The latter had held a modest place since the first decade of the twentieth century, when Mrs. Clarence White’s name appeared in the catalogue as teacher of pianoforte. But until President Bixler brought Dr. Ermanno Comparetti to the staff in 1942, neither instrumental nor vocal music was taught by a full-time member of the faculty. In fact, vocal music remained under the part-time instruction of Mr. John W. Thomas until 1952 when Peter Re became a member of the department in charge of vocal work.

In 1943 Dr. Comparetti started the Colby-Community Symphony Orchestra, including students, faculty and townspeople. A generous trustee gave $5,000 a year for three years, to stimulate the whole musical program. Prominent musicians in America and from abroad were brought to the campus for concerts and recitals. The Boston Globe devoted a full page of the Sunday rotogravure section to pictures of the Colby-Community Orchestra, calling attention to it as a joint effort of town and gown. Friends raised more than a thousand dollars for the orchestra’s support. Academic credit was given for work done in orchestra, glee club, and band.

The vocal units, already well trained under Mr. Thomas, developed rapidly under Professor Re. The choir and the glee club became famous for their public programs, especially those given in Carnegie Hall, New York, or over the radio on the Monsanto program. Two smaller units, the Colby Eight and the Colbyettes, male and female groups respectively, were much in demand by public organizations as well as at college functions. The Eight filled repeated engagements at a Bermuda hotel.

Although it had long been the intention to expand the program into individual instrumental instruction by full-time members of the staff, as soon as facilities should be available, the opening of the magnificent Bixler Art and Music Center in 1959 did not mean that Colby was starting a separate school of music. It has always been, and in 1959 still was, the intention to keep Colby distinctly a college of liberal arts and to require every student who majored in music not
only to take courses in musical theory and music history, but also to fulfill the
same distribution requirements in humanities, sciences, and social sciences as
were demanded of every other Colby student.

Campus interest in music was greatly stimulated by the Waterville Coopera­
tive Concert series, an annual series of concerts under the direction of a member
of the Modern Language Department, Professor Everett F. Strong, for many
years the organist at the Waterville Congregational Church.

Since the time when Laban Warren introduced a single term course in the
History of Classical Art in the 1880's, Colby had included such a course in its
curriculum until the retirement of Professor Clarence White in 1934. Then for
nearly a decade the College had no courses at all in art. President Bixler at once
remedied that situation by his appointment of Professor Samuel Green in fine
arts. Professor Green's courses at once became popular. He brought to the
College many distinguished exhibits from the Metropolitan, the Museum of Modern
Art, and the Boston Art Museum, as well as the works of such individual artists
as John Marin, Andrew Wyeth, Waldo Pierce, and Colby's alumnus Charles Hovey
Pepper. Green became especially interested in the indigenous art and archi­
tecture of Maine. He mounted a notable exhibit of early Maine architecture, and
supplemented it with ships' figureheads, weather vanes, and interesting "primitives."

When Professor Green left Colby for a more alluring position, he was, after
a brief interval, succeeded by James Carpenter, who in quiet but effective manner
expanded the art curriculum, continued the exhibits, and worked in hearty coopera­
tion with Dr. Comparetti on the unique plans for the Art and Music Building.

From Maine's well-known Pulsifer family President Bixler secured the loan
of a notable collection of paintings by Winslow Homer, which were hung in the
lounge at Roberts Union until the opening of the exhibit rooms in the new build­
ing. As the years of the Bixler administration went by, item after item was
added to the art collection, including one of the nation's best and most extensive
collections of American "primitives." Called the American Heritage Collection,
it was presented to the College by Mr. and Mrs. Ellerton Jetté. It consists of
nearly a hundred primitive paintings of the period from 1800 to 1860. Most of
the artists still remain anonymous. Among them were painters of signs, houses,
and carriages, and itinerant limners. Largely untutored and technically unskilled,
the American primitive painter worked in complete freedom, unfettered by tradi­
tion or schools. The product is essentially and typically American, and the Jetté
collection has done much to give Colby distinction in the assembling of a per­
manent, distinguished museum.

As the Colby program in art captured popular attention and won the ap­
proval of contemporary artists, it won the interest of Willard W. Cummings,
founder of the Skowhegan School of Art, a summer program of national renown.
In 1959 Mr. Cummings completed a portrait of President Bixler, which hangs
in the main lobby of the Art and Music Center. Mrs. Ellerton Jetté and Mr.
Cummings organized a group called The Friends of Art at Colby. That group
secured gifts of paintings and other works to add to the College's already con­siderable holdings, for the Inaugural Exhibition at the opening of the new build­
ing, on October 17, 1959. Said Mrs. Jetté: "We have many plans for the fu­
ture: to continue to improve and enlarge our permanent collection; to obtain the
best possible traveling and loan collections; to attract to Colby top speakers. The
list is endless. We plan to start immediately a permanent endowment fund with
yearly or life memberships, so that we shall have the resources to reach these
goals."
Not so successful as art and music was the attempt to introduce a Collegiate School of Nursing. At their meeting in November, 1942, on the urging of Dr. Frederick T. Hill, the Trustees voted to start such a school in the fall of 1943. President Bixler made it clear that the nursing program was not a step toward turning Colby into a school of vocational training. He said:

Obviously Colby cannot establish a set of graduate schools of university type. Just as clearly it will not forsake its liberal arts ideal to become a junior college with emphasis on vocational instruction. Colby's aim, now as always, is to give a liberal arts education. But we believe education is not made liberal simply by removing it from those areas where the practical work of the world is done. We believe that, in certain special fields, where we have the equipment and can handle the practical details involved, we can provide a type of training that will be liberal in the best sense and yet will prepare directly for professional work. As a matter of fact we have done this for many years in the fields of teaching and business administration. We are especially eager to do it in nursing because we believe there is need for high educational standards in that profession.

The nursing course demanded five years of the student's time. It yielded an A.B. degree and a diploma in nursing education, enabling the graduate to take a position at executive or teaching level in the profession. The first two and one-half years were spent at Colby, then two years were devoted to clinical study in hospitals, and the final semester was spent back at the College so that the students could bring together the diverse threads of their training and complete it within the Colby community.

Along with the course in nursing, there was introduced a course in Medical Technology. A student could complete it in four calendar years, three at Colby and one of special instruction at the Central Maine General Hospital in Lewiston and the Pratt Diagnostic Clinic in Boston.

It was not the fault of Dr. Hill and other persons in the medical and nursing professions that the program did not succeed. Dr. Hill devoted much time and energy to its problems, as did Dr. Raymond Sloan and Miss Pearl Fisher. In October, 1943, Dr. Hill was able to report to his fellow trustees that 17 students had initially enrolled in Medical Technology and three in Nursing. Then in the spring of 1944 trouble loomed on the horizon. The U. S. Government started its program of Cadet Nursing Training, and few girls were willing to pay substantial fees for what they considered Uncle Sam would give them free. The fact that the Colby program was different, assuring breadth in liberal arts as well as professional depth, made insufficient appeal. A year later Dr. Hill reported that enrollment in Medical Technology continued to be encouraging, but the numbers in Nursing were decidedly disappointing. The situation dragged on for several years after the war. In 1947 President Bixler told the Trustees he was concerned about the program; only 18 of more than 150 new women students were taking any interest in either course. After 1950, Colby accepted no new students in the program, and continued the courses only long enough to graduate those girls who were already enrolled.

In 1949 President Bixler proposed an innovation that afterwards won wide acclaim. It was called "The Book of the Year." A committee of students and faculty chose one book which the entire Colby community was asked to read, and throughout the year it was brought into classroom discussion as occasion of-
fered. Beginning with 1949-50, successive Books of the Year were Lecomte du
Nouy's *Human Destiny*, Harry Overstreet's *The Mature Mind*, Plays of Bernard
Shaw, Norman Cousins' *Who Speaks for Man*, Albert Schweitzer's *Out of My Life
and Thought*, David Riesman's *The Lonely Crowd*, Don Quixote, Crane Brinton's
*The Shaping of the Modern Mind*, Veblen's *The Theory of the Leisure Class*.

In 1953, at President Bixler's urging, there was introduced a program known
as Senior Scholars. At first including only four seniors, it was in later years ex­
panded sometimes to as many as eight. The number was intentionally kept small,
to insure both careful selection and adequate supervision. Released from either
two or three of their conventional courses, the chosen seniors were assigned to
individual faculty tutors, who guided them in the completion of a comprehensive
paper on a topic chosen in the student's major field.

In 1953 curricular investigations being pressed by President Bixler so at­
ttracted the Fund for the Advancement of Education, a subsidiary of the Ford
Foundation, that the Fund granted $12,500 to Colby, to make a self-study of
its educational program between February 1954 and June 1955. The Dean of
the Faculty, Ernest Marriner, was released from part of his normal duties to
direct the study, carried out by a faculty committee whose other members were:
Mark Benbow (English), Wilfred Combellack (Mathematics), Richard Gilman
(Philosophy), Donaldson Koons (Geology), Frank Lathrop (Business Adminis­
tration), Gordon Smith (Modern Languages), and Ralph Williams, Assistant to
the President. Whenever possible, President Bixler attended the committee meet­
ings and made valuable suggestions.

The committee decided as its central theme for investigation "A Climate
Favorable for Learning at Colby College." The study sought to determine the
nature, cause and strength of factors which produce a favorable climate and those
which hinder it. As the aims of Colby College the committee accepted a state­
ment already enunciated by President Bixler.

1. The education of young men and women by stimulating teaching
in the basic fields of knowledge.

2. Inculcating habits of discriminating thinking so as to enable the
student to sift truth from propaganda, the sound from the fal­
lacious, the good and beautiful from the cheap and shoddy.

3. Directing students to view events and situations with a sense of
perspective grounded upon a long-range understanding of history.

4. Making the campus a laboratory for democratic group living, send­
ing out men and women who will be responsible, intelligent and
loyal citizens of their larger communities.

5. Exposing the student to the highest ideals of ethics and religion and
encouraging the adoption of those ideals as supplying the per­
sonal dynamic for a life of creative and fruitful service.

There ensued a detailed study of the relation to the central theme of such
topics as curriculum and methods of teaching; admission and graduation standards,
especially as revealed in attrition; reading ability of the students; honesty in aca­
demic work; and the prevailing student attitude toward the existing academic
standards. The committee found it equally important to study the influence of
non-academic activities on the climate of learning. The investigation therefore
included fraternities and sororities, athletics and other extracurricular activities, the AFROTC, and the social life in general. As the study progressed, the committee found that they must not neglect to consider the physical environment, especially its aids or obstacles to study habits; the influence of the career motive in a college of liberal arts, and such intangible influences as Recognition Assembly, the Library Associates, the student publications, the foreign language clubs, and the literary groups. As the committee expressed it, "Every group that 'bats around ideas' contributes to the life of the mind at Colby."

One topic of extensive study had been giving increased concern for many years. What most coeducational colleges recognize as expected superior academic performance from the women had become a serious problem at Colby, because each year since the close of World War II the gap between the two sexes in respect to academic achievement had widened.

Statistics gathered in the study made the discrepancy abundantly clear. In June, 1955, the Committee on Standing had dropped from college 22 men and 5 women, had continued on probation 19 men and 2 women, had placed originally on probation 29 men and 3 women, making a total of 70 men and only 10 women concerning whom severe action was taken. In the annual elections to Phi Beta Kappa, women outnumbered men four to one, although the total number of women in each class was less than two-thirds the number of men. In the Class of 1954, although 26 quality points were sufficient for graduation, no woman had fewer than 30, and only four had fewer than 40; while 11 men had fewer than 30 points. Eighteen women, but only six men, had more than 80 points. For men of the class, the median of quality points was 45; for women it was 60. A study of reading ability emphasized the sex disparity. In every category —vocabulary, speed, comprehension—the women scored better than the men.

The study revealed that admission had much to do with the better performance of women. Among the students who entered as freshmen in 1950, only 12% of the women had stood below the middle of their high school classes, while 28% of the men were in that status. Even more striking was the fact that 79% of the women stood in the upper quarter, while only 38% of the men had that distinction. The women scored higher than the men on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, not merely in verbal score but also in mathematical, and they showed overwhelming superiority in foreign languages.

The committee concluded that the solution did not lie in leveling down the quality of the women students, but rather in upgrading the quality of the men. "Somehow," the report said, "a larger number of better qualified men must be induced to seek admission into Colby. A liberal arts college is an institution where intellectual performance is a measure of the college's distinct contribution to the nation's culture. Such a college is rightly concerned not alone for the performance of superior students, but also for the general level of student achievement. However inevitable may be a disparity between the sexes in this respect, Colby should be determined that every reasonable effort shall constantly be made to narrow the gap of that disparity."

In its final report the committee made thirty-four recommendations: seven concerned with curriculum and instruction, eight with admission and graduation requirements, one with reading ability, two with physical education and athletics, one with AFROTC, nine with the physical environment, three with the superior student, and five with intangible influences.

Among the recommendations eventually adopted by the faculty were a program of remedial reading; revision of the Air Science program, including a change
from required to voluntary courses; elimination of the Division of General Studies, and substantial changes in the requirements for graduation. Although it brought no sweeping alterations, it did stimulate both faculty study and student interest in curriculum problems, and it led to further study by a committee under Dean Strider, culminating in the adoption of a unique program to become effective in the fall of 1961. Under that program the month of January would be devoted to independent study, and those "lost weekends" between Christmas and mid-year examinations would be eliminated, because the examinations would be held before the holidays. Continued attention to problems raised by the Self-Study was assured by the appointment of a standing faculty committee on Educational Policy.

Three steps affecting the curriculum were taken early in the 1950's. A cooperative plan was worked out with the Carnegie Institute of Technology, whereby a student after completing three years at Colby and two subsequent years at Carnegie could obtain both the Colby A.B. degree and the Carnegie M.S. in Engineering. Later the Massachusetts Institute of Technology included Colby in a similar cooperative plan. In 1952 the Graduate School of Education at Harvard invited Colby to be one of twenty-seven colleges selected to inaugurate a cooperative program in teacher training. Under that plan, from three to six Colby seniors have been accepted annually into a Harvard graduate course culminating in the degree of Master of Arts in Teaching. During the year at Harvard, the student devotes one semester to work in the Graduate School of Education and the other semester to work in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Significant as were these innovations in engineering and teacher training, of even greater influence on the Colby curriculum was the introduction of a unit of the Air Force Reserve Officers Training School in 1951. Soon after the Air Force was made a separate arm of the service, it sought to institute a program for training prospective officers in the colleges, similar to the college training programs of the Army and the Navy. The result was the AFROTC, with units originally activated in 65 American colleges, one of which was Colby.

The members of the faculty were by no means unanimous in welcoming a military unit to the campus in peacetime. The Korean War had not started when Colby was asked to decide whether it would accept the Air Force unit, and 19 members of the faculty registered their opposition to "military intrusion into the curriculum." On the other hand, 18 expressed themselves as strongly in favor of the unit, seven were mildly favorable, four were indifferent, and ten did not vote.

The voice of the student body was overwhelmingly for acceptance of the unit. Ninety percent of the male students voted for the plan on an emergency basis, and seventy percent wanted to place it on a permanent basis. A majority of the girls also favored the plan.

As soon as President Bixler and the Executive Committee of the Trustees decided that Colby should make formal application for an Air Force unit, the question arose whether enrollment of Colby men in it should be required or voluntary. On urgent advice of visiting inspectors, especially from two men who were themselves graduates of colleges of liberal arts, it was decided to make enrollment compulsory for all freshmen and sophomores who could meet the physical requirements. Soon learning that the AFROTC in many other New England colleges was on a voluntary basis, the Colby authorities regretted their decision and determined to make the local unit also voluntary as early as possible. Eight years elapsed before that could be done, but at last in the fall of 1959 the entering class of men was given the option to take or omit the courses in Air Science.
On October 4, 1951, the faculty voted by a large majority to grant full credit for all Air Science courses.

The program consisted of two years of basic instruction, followed by two years of advanced work. On completion of the advanced course, graduates were commissioned officers of the Air Force. As time went on, improvements were made in the courses, always with a view to increasing their academic content or bringing them more in line with the usual liberal arts subjects. In making these changes the College found the Air Force fully cooperative. A distinct contribution was made by Colby to the national program of AFROTC when President Bixler proposed a plan by which nearly all the military instruction of the basic course was placed in the first year, and, except for the weekly drill, the entire second year was devoted to a course in Logic and Moral Philosophy. The high command of the Air Force agreed that their future officers could well profit by systematic instruction in the forms and principles of valid reasoning, as well as in the application of ethical principles to questions of political obligation and social value.

Intellectual life of the campus received stimulus from many lecturers and consultants whom President Bixler brought to the College. Early in his administration Dr. and Mrs. George G. Averill established the Averill Lecture Series; Mr. Guy Gabrielson of the Board of Trustees set up the Gabrielson Lectures on Government and Politics; and Robert Ingraham, 1951, inaugurated the Ingraham Lectures on Philosophy and Religion. Most of the lecturers spent several days on the campus, holding conferences with students and informally speaking at classes, as well as delivering formal addresses.

A climate favorable for learning was further enhanced by President Bixler's innovation of scheduling a prominent academic convocation at least once in every student generation of four years. The first such event was held in the spring of 1953 under the title, "The Liberal Arts in Illiberal Times." The distinguished participants were on the campus from April 14 through 17, carrying on panel discussions and meeting groups of students. The major addresses were "The College Graduate Looks at Life," by Guy Gabrielson, former Chairman of the Republican National Committee; "Religion in Our Secular Society," by Theodore Greene, Professor of Philosophy at Yale; "The College as Trustee of the Free Market in Ideas," by Everett N. Case, President of Colgate University; "And Gladly Teach," by Marjorie Nicholson, Professor of English at Columbia University; "Science in the Liberal Arts," by Detlev Bronk, President of Johns Hopkins University; and "The Whole Man Requires a Whole Education," by Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review.

So enthusiastic was the student response to the first convocation and so richly was the intellectual atmosphere stimulated that both students and faculty were eager to repeat the experience in 1956. The topic was then "The Rediscovery of the Individual," to which President Bixler applied Emerson's slogan, "Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind." The five day session began on Sunday evening, April 8, with a nation-wide radio broadcast on "America's Town Meeting of the Air." The moderator was Shepard L. Whitman, Director of Residential Seminars on World Affairs. Under his direction President Bixler, Dean Ernest Marriner and Chaplain Clifford Osborne discussed the question, Have mass pressures invaded the campus? Convocation addresses during the following days were given by distinguished American scholars.

In 1959 the third convocation considered "The Liberating Role of the Humanities and the Social Sciences." This convocation was timed to coincide with
the opening of the Lovejoy Building, dedicated to the humanities and the social sciences.

Although Colby had become widely known as "the little college that is going to move," not until well into the Bixler administration did it get truly national publicity. Then an article in the *Saturday Evening Post* told its many readers about the little college in Central Maine. In the summer of 1950 the producers of the motion picture series, *The March of Time*, chose Colby for the filming of Vannevar Bush's forceful book, *Modern Arms and Free Men*. For four weeks, cameras and microphones prodded into campus corners, stores and barber shops, to recruit students, faculty and townspeople for roles in the picture. More than 30,000 feet of film were recorded, of which 6,000 were used. The story began with a group of students discussing atomic bombs and pondering the advisability of continuing in college. They met with President Bixler, who agreed to invite Dr. Bush to Mayflower Hill to conduct a seminar on the critical subject. After showing meetings at the College, interspersed with shots of interviews in the town, the film ended with an optimistic statement by Dr. Bush.

President Bixler strengthened the faculty by several significant appointments, notably of distinguished scholars to head the departments of biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, and history. He led a successful campaign for increases in faculty salaries, and he showed active interest in the teachers' human as well as scholarly welfare. When the Tuition Exchange Plan for the college education of faculty children was organized, Colby had been a charter member. Within five or six years the plan proved unworkable, because the children wanted to attend so few colleges that those few could take only a small percentage of the faculty children applicants, while other colleges to which they did not care to apply, had plenty of room. Colby was one of the first colleges that was obliged to refuse many desirable applicants eligible under the plan, because the faculty children of other colleges who wanted to enroll at Colby exceeded by more than ten to one the number of Colby children who wanted to go elsewhere, and the plan demanded a one to one exchange. The result was that in 1959 Colby withdrew from the Tuition Exchange Plan, and on recommendation of President Bixler the Colby Trustees agreed to pay the tuition of the child of any Colby faculty member in any college where the child was accepted, up to an amount not exceeding the tuition fee at Colby. For many years preceding that generous decision, Colby faculty children had been entitled to attend Colby with complete remission of the tuition fee, and that privilege was of course extended. Beginning in 1959, any faculty child could attend either Colby or any other accredited college on a stipend that would meet full tuition up to the cost of Colby tuition itself.

What proved to be one of the most important of the Bixler innovations was Parents Day, first held in 1948. On a Saturday early in the fall, when a home football game was scheduled, the parents of all currently enrolled students were invited to the campus to assemble at a luncheon, attend the game, and receive other courtesies as guests of the College. At the first meeting in 1948, nearly 500 parents attended. Each succeeding year the number rose rapidly until in 1959 it exceeded 1200. The result was the formation of a very active Association of Colby Parents, which not only gave material assistance to the Fulfillment Campaign, but has in other ways been a constant source of support in the progress of the College.

A threatened catastrophe won Colby a lot of attention in 1956 and 1957, when the State Highway Commission announced that the new Interstate Highway would be built through the front of the campus only a few hundred feet east of
the women's quadrangle and even nearer to the President's home. Protests came not only from Colby alumni, but also from hundreds of non-Colby citizens. The presidents of the other three long established colleges of Maine raised influential objections to the Highway Commission's plan. So effective were the protests that the Commission agreed to reroute the highway behind, instead of in front of, the college buildings. Although the new road is not far from the men's dormitories, and although it has taken a small section of college land near the Field House, it does not bisect the campus and it does not interfere with campus expansion in the direction of the city.

A barometer of Colby expansion is the record of its finances during the eighteen years of the Bixler administration. The Mayflower Hill development up to the completion of the first part of the Fulfillment Campaign in 1959 has been told in a previous chapter. But the financial achievements of the 1940's and 1950's went far beyond the erection of the new buildings, though they were the visible sign of progress. In 1942, when Seelye Bixler became President, the endowment stood at slightly less than three million dollars. Ten years later it had reached almost four million, and in 1959 the auditors' report placed it at $7,600,659 cost, or $8,542,549 market value. In Bixler's first year total expenditures were $408,000; in 1958-59 they were $2,293,000. The total holdings of tangible property had risen from $1,357,000 in 1942 to $9,126,000 in 1959.

When Bixler entered the presidency the maximum salary of a full professor was $4000. With determined persistence he persuaded the Trustees to increase the salary scale several times, so that by 1959 the minimum paid a new instructor was higher than the maximum paid a full professor seventeen years earlier. The first substantial increase came at the end of the war in 1945, when instructors could get as much as $2500 and full professors $5000, but those figures were the possible maxima, not the average salaries actually paid. Within a year, through the strong support of Chairman Leonard, President Bixler had secured a vote of the Board to increase those maxima to $2900 and $5500 respectively.

In 1947 the Trustees abandoned the policy of uniform and regular salary increments to all faculty members, and substituted a policy of salary adjustments based on merit. At the same time they adopted the following salary scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>$2400 to $3400</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>3100 to 4100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>3800 to 4800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>4500 to no stated maximum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When that scale was next raised the professor's maximum was set at $7000, then later at $8000, and in 1951 at $10,000. The scale announced in 1951 attracted much favorable attention in the press:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>$2800 to $3600</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>3100 to 4300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>3800 to 5200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>5000 to 10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After 1951 the scale saw repeated increases until in 1959 the minimum for an instructor was $4500, while the maximum for a full professor was $12,000. In 1958-59 the College expended $586,462 in salaries to the teaching staff and $60,000 in administrative compensation.
Stimulus was given to salary increases in 1956 when the Ford Foundation granted 26 million dollars to 615 independent colleges of liberal arts, for the purpose of raising faculty salaries. Colby was one of 126 of those colleges to receive an extra amount in the form of an "accomplishment bonus" in recognition of what the corporation had already done for its faculty from its own resources. Colby's share in the Ford grant amounted to $432,900.

Progress made by Colby College in the hundred years since the middle of the nineteenth century is almost incredible. In 1858-59 the total operating income had been only $4738. Since expenses ran to $6410, the deficit had to be met by applying a portion of capital returns to current needs. The total investments were then $22,772. There was then no such thing as a systematic budget. The Board simply accepted the Treasurer's prediction that in 1859-60 the receipts would be about $5013, of which $3200 would come from term bills and $1700 from interest on investments and land notes. Against the expected income the Treasurer made the gloomy prediction that expenses would amount to $5800. He listed only two items: salaries $4800; all other expenses $1000. A hundred years ago the College thus faced a deficit of about 16% of its expected income. What a difference in 1959! The endowment then exceeded eight million dollars. Annual expenditures had for some time surpassed two million, with no deficits. The College received from tuition more than a million dollars, and the $1810 of annual investment income a hundred years earlier had risen to $345,427.

The figures for plant investment show similar contrast. In 1859 the college lot on the bank of the Kennebec, together with its three buildings, was valued at $68,000. Other land in Waterville was placed at $4000 and land in Winthrop at $4500, a total of $76,500. In 1959 the college property was valued at $9,126,000.

When the sixth decade of the twentieth century was drawing to a close, it was costing $268,000 a year for maintenance of buildings and grounds, exclusive of workmen's wages, which added $181,000. Fuel cost $37,000 a year, and electric power $31,000. Telephone service cost $5400. To operate the dining services at three centers took more than $400,000. The cost of fuel alone in 1958-59 would have paid all the expenses of the College, including faculty salaries, for five years in the 1850's.

Administrative reorganization began early in the Bixler administration. In 1945 an office of admissions was established and that responsibility was removed from the offices of Dean of Men and Dean of Women. When it was decided to set up the new office of Dean of the Faculty in 1947, the separate admissions office was abolished and responsibility for the enrollment of new students was returned to the offices of the Dean of Men and the Dean of Women. The transition was made easier because George Nickerson, who had been serving as Director of Admissions, succeeded Ernest Marriner as Dean of Men, while Marriner became Dean of the Faculty. Within a few years the work of men's admission had so overburdened Dean Nickerson's office that William Bryan of the Class of 1948 became Nickerson's assistant. When the authorities were at last convinced that the College must have a single admissions office, as had been intended in 1945, Bryan was the logical choice for the position. By 1959 he too had an assistant and an office force of several persons. Meanwhile, as a member of the College Entrance Examination Board, Colby had come to demand both the scholastic aptitude test and achievement tests of every applicant.
Another administrative advance came in 1950 when Galen Eustis was appointed to the new office of Vice-President, charged especially with management of business and financial affairs. His valuable contribution to the successful operation of the College continued until his untimely death in 1959, and the new building to house all administrative offices was appropriately named the Arthur Galen Eustis Administration Building.

Eustis' successor in the office of Vice-President was a young man whom Eustis himself had brought to the Colby staff shortly after the war. A graduate of Colby in 1935, after war service as a naval officer, a master's degree in Business Administration and important business experience, Ralph S. ("Ronnie") Williams had returned to his alma mater as Instructor in Business Administration. He rose through the several ranks to a full professorship and chairmanship of the department. When the burdens of the President's office pointed clearly to the need for an administrative assistant, Williams became the first incumbent of that responsible position. All through the years he had been close to Galen Eustis, the man whose financial acumen, vigilant oversight and devotion to the College had been so largely responsible for the success of the Mayflower Hill venture. When Colby suffered the sudden loss of Eustis by his death in 1959, it was more than good fortune—it was the careful planning of Eustis himself—that made ready as his successor the competent, loyal "Ronnie" Williams.

When Seelye Bixler came to Colby, he announced his firm belief in democratic administration. As a result, faculty members were elected to various administrative committees; student representation participated in such areas as discipline and convocations; and the Trustees provided for the seating of two members of the faculty as observing, non-voting members of the Board.

In 1956 the Trustees decided that the time had come for an objective study of the entire organization of the College, to be conducted by a competent outside body. They employed Booz, Allen and Hamilton, Management Consultants of New York City, to make a Survey of General Administration and Planning at Colby and present suitable recommendations. Their comprehensive report, running to 80 typewritten pages, was made in September, 1957, and it resulted in substantial changes. The survey found that administrative responsibility had not been clearly defined, that the first incumbents of new offices had been obliged largely to feel their way into areas of duty not clarified, and that Colby administration, like Topsy, "just grew."

The survey's most important recommendation concerned the President of the College. Any organization, the surveyors argued, must have one and only one executive head. He may, of course, delegate certain responsibilities, but every other major officer of the College should be responsible to him, and none of them have responsibility directly to the Trustees. There were numerous other recommendations, many of which were implemented in a reorganization authorized by new by-laws adopted by the Trustees in 1958.

The first step in a rather sweeping reorganization concerned membership on the growing Board itself. Since the founding of the College the Trustees had been a self-perpetuating body, accustomed to re-elect members for term after term. Alumni membership had indeed offered opportunity for changes, but in many instances alumni members whose terms expired were elected to regular membership. Pursuant to a recommendation of the survey, the new by-laws provided that "any person who has been a Trustee for twelve or more consecutive years, whether by election by the corporation or the alumni, shall be ineligible to be reelected until one year after he has ceased to be a Trustee."

The new
provision was not made in any criticism of persons then serving on the Board. Seldom in its history had Colby enjoyed the devoted service of such a conscientious group of men and women as were its Trustees in 1958. The criticism concerned policy, not persons. It was agreed that a policy of rotation was to be preferred.

The new by-laws provided that the second ranking officer should be the Dean of the Faculty, who in case of absence or disability of the President was empowered to perform the duties of the presidential office. Assisting the President in all academic matters, the Dean of the Faculty was authorized "to direct academic departments in carrying out approved program; to recommend faculty appointments, promotions, salaries and leaves to the President; to direct the program of counseling and guidance; to review and approve class and examination schedules prepared by the Registrar; and report to the President on the progress of the academic program." While he was responsible directly to the President, other officers responsible to the Dean of the Faculty were Librarian, Registrar, Chaplain, Director of Admissions, Director of Placement, Director of Adult Education and Extension, and all divisions and departments of the faculty.

The officer next in importance, under the new provisions, was the Administrative Vice-President, who became responsible for "the supervision of the maintenance of buildings, grounds and facilities; operation of the dining halls, bookstore, supply and administrative services, finance, payroll, purchasing and accounting; and developing and carrying out plans for new construction." He had responsibility to the Committee on Investment for recommendations regarding college funds. Like the Dean of the Faculty, the Administrative Vice-President was responsible to the President, while the other officers responsible to that Vice-President were Treasurer, Director of Food Service, and Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.

The office of Vice-President for Development was retained. He was, "subject to the direction of the President, responsible for supervision of the public relations and fund-raising programs of the College." To him was responsible the Director of Public Relations, and it was his duty to supervise the coordination of the Alumni Fund with the general fund-raising program.

A noteworthy change in the new statement concerning the Deans of Men and of Women was the complete omission of the time-honored terms "Men's Division" and "Women's Division." They were simply empowered to "have supervision of the student life of the men and women respectively." The Director of the Roberts Union became responsible to the Dean of Men, and the Director of the Runnals Union to the Dean of Women.

In the spring of 1959 the Maine Legislature passed an act amending and restating the charter of the College, in conformity with the proposed changes (See Appendix R.)

In June 1960 the notable administration of Julius Seelye Bixler came to an end. What he had done for the little college up in the northeast corner of the nation was given international publicity in the magazine *Time* on November 23, 1959.

Colby has attracted money because Bixler has given the campus intellectual tone. Along with boosting the curriculum, notably in philosophy and religion, he launched art and music departments. He fostered a course in creative thinking. He stirred the school to provide a 'book of the year'. He got Colby to give TV courses for credit to rural
viewers, made the school a summer center for adult education. [Arousing of] 'intellectual curiosity' would not have been possible if Colby had not risen to the quality in J. Seelye Bixler.

Colby would indeed miss the scholarly leadership and the warm personality of Dr. Bixler. It would miss too the genuine hominess and utter lack of ostentation shown by his wife Mary. Seelye and Mary Bixler were persons whom everyone in Waterville regarded not with aloofness and awe, but with the respect of genuine friendship.

In 1957, when Ernest Marriner retired as Dean of the Faculty, there had been brought to Colby as his successor Dr. Robert E. L. Strider, II, Professor of English at Connecticut College and prominent Elizabethan scholar. In October, 1959, the Trustees elected Dr. Strider to succeed Dr. Bixler in the presidency. With his charming, cultured wife and his four growing children, Robert Strider had won the respect and affection of faculty, students and community. When he took office as Colby's seventeenth president everyone knew that another era of significant achievement lay ahead.
 CHAPTER XL

The Distaff Side

COLBY COLLEGE has never been coeducational de jure, although for two decades it has been so de facto. Legally the college is organized into two separate units known as the Men's Division and the Women's Division. At Commencement, the Colby diplomas are presented separately to the men and to the women. How does it happen that this college is today coeducational in fact, but not in legality? How have women students fared through the years? Has there ever been equality of the sexes on the Colby campus?

Preceding chapters have made frequent reference to the women, and part of their story has already been told in some detail. The reader has already observed the arrival of women in a college for men, the repeated opposition to their presence, the decision to put them into a separate college, and their final acceptance. We are ready now to learn how and why Colby women became increasingly prominent, so that for the past thirty years there has never been the faintest suggestion that Colby ought to be rid of them.

All honor is due to Mary Low, the first girl to brave the lion's den of a Colby classroom. When she was permitted to enroll in 1871, she was not only the sole woman in the entire college; she had to make her way in competition with several brilliant men, among whom were Leslie Cornish and Henry Hudson, both of whom became justices of the Maine Supreme Court. All through their four college years, Leslie Cornish and Mary Low vied for top honors, and on Commencement day in 1875 it was the woman who delivered the valedictory. As wife of the State Librarian, Mary Low Carver became also an expert in library science, made the first systematic catalogue of the Maine State Library, and was a frequent contributor to library journals. Fortunately this talented woman lived to attend the Centennial in 1920, and in 1921 the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of her own admission as the first Colby woman. On the latter occasion, Mrs. Carver's classmate, Judge Cornish, then chairman of the Colby Trustees, said when he introduced her to the audience: "Fifty years ago a boy and a girl presented themselves for prize entrance examinations at Colby. The girl won first and the boy won second prize. Today the boy who took the second prize takes pleasure in presenting the girl who won first prize."

Until her junior year Mary Low remained the only woman student among more than fifty men. Then, in the fall of 1873, four other girls came as freshmen. Among them was the second woman to receive a Colby diploma, Louise Helen Coburn, a member of Somerset County's most prominent family, that had been connected with the College almost since its founding. Her grandfather, Eleazer
HISTORY OF COLBY COLLEGE

Coburn, had become a trustee in 1836, and her uncle, Abner Coburn, went on the Board in 1845. Next to Gardner Colby, Abner Coburn was the College's most generous benefactor during the nineteenth century. The Coburns were a family devoted to good books, good music, good art, and especially to education. When Louise learned that a girl had been admitted into the College down in Waterville where her uncle was a leading trustee, she determined that she too would seek admission there. Great was her joy when she learned that, unlike Mary Low, she would not be the only female in her class, but would have the company of three other girls.

Like her predecessor, Miss Coburn made an outstanding scholastic record, winning the respect and esteem of her male competitors. As leader of the Colby alumnae she later pressed the campaign for adequate housing of women students, for the Alumnae Building, and for recognition of the women in graduate and corporate affairs. She succeeded in having women admitted to the Board of Trustees and was herself the first member so elected. The writer of many articles and poems, Louise Coburn is perhaps best remembered as the author of one of the finest histories of any Maine town and among the best local histories in the whole nation: *Skowhegan on the Kennebec*.

During the 1870's, after the decision had been made to admit women, a major question was whether women were capable of taking the same academic program pursued by the men. Strangely enough, the social implications of coeducation attracted little attention. The one prevailing issue was whether girls had any place in the pursuit of subjects so long held as the sole province of the male. The answer was not long delayed. So well did the women perform in the conventional liberal arts subjects that they were soon winning all the prizes awarded for academic excellence. In fact, no small part of the agitation that arose later in regard to the retention of women in the College was prompted by the fact that they persistently ran away with the honors.

Colby alumnae have long ago forgotten the first woman officer whose name appeared in the college catalogue. For 14 years after the entrance of Mary Low in 1871 the only catalogue reference to women, other than the female names in the directory of students, was the simple sentence: "The courses of study are open to young women on the same terms as to young men." Then, in the summer of 1885, the Trustees purchased of Hall C. Burleigh, for $5500, the house on College Avenue just south of the residence of Dr. Nathaniel Boutelle and put it into suitable condition for occupancy of women students. The catalogue for 1885-86 therefore contained the following statement.

The Trustees have recently purchased for a Ladies Hall the house formerly the residence of Professor Briggs. It is situated on College Street, near the University buildings, and affords a pleasant and convenient home for the young ladies. It is under the direction and care of Mrs. A. L. Mortimer.

Mrs. Mortimer thus had the distinction of being the first woman other than a student to have her name in the catalogue, but not until ten years later, in 1895, was any woman mentioned in the august list headed "Faculty of Instruction," although appended to that list, on the same page and in equally large print, appeared the name "Samuel Osborne, Janitor." There is no more important witness than that fact to show how little regard was given to women during the first quarter
century of their enrollment at Colby. They were considered not quite so high in status as the janitor.

Official indifference to the women was not shared by the men students, at least not during the early years. In 1884 the *Echo* stated editorially:

> It seems as if the most enthusiastic admirers of the co-ed system must have their enthusiasm increased by the extraordinary success it is meeting here. If the proportion of the fair sex continues to increase, they will soon cease to be the exception and become the rule. If co-education is a settled fact, and we presume it is, it should be fully realized as soon as possible, and it can never be realized until steps are taken to give the girls the benefit of all the advantages which the boys enjoy.²

The beginning of women's instruction at Colby was truly coeducational. Not until several years later was there any question that women should be enrolled “on the same terms as the young men” — that is, in the same classes, competing for the same prizes, and having the same privileges consistent with the mores of the time.

When Albion Woodbury Small became President in 1889, he found the admission of women by no means acceptable to all supporters of the College. The Alumni Association had recently passed a resolution requesting the Trustees to ban women from further admission. Observing that the women had many supporters, not the least of whom were members of the powerful Coburn family of Skowhegan, Small hit upon the idea of coordination to replace the existing system of coeducation. He seems at first to have conceived of two separate colleges under a single administration and a single faculty, and it was only financial inability to set up such a plan that caused his men's college and women's college to be designated later as men's division and women's division.

Small proposed that, as soon as finances should permit, instruction should be given in entirely separate classes to men and to women. He agreed that it might be acceptable, as well as economical, to have both sexes attend lectures together, but he insisted that laboratory work in the sciences could be segregated by schedule, although both sexes might have to use the same facilities. Small intended later to introduce into the separate colleges “different courses, appropriate to the particular sex.” In class organization, rank, prizes, contests, appointments and honors the members of the two colleges would be treated as independently as if they were in distinct institutions.

On June 30, 1890, the Trustees voted to inaugurate President Small's plan of coordination. Women graduates of the college, though few in number, were loud in protest. Nineteen of them, whose graduation years ranged from 1875 to 1890, signed a printed statement of sixteen pages, setting forth in detail the case of equal treatment of the sexes at Colby. The text of this powerful statement is said to have been chiefly the work of Louise Coburn, although Mrs. Carver certainly collaborated in the final writing. Other well known Colby women whose signatures were affixed to the document were Bertha Louise Soule, 1885, Hattie M. Parmenter, 1889, and Addie F. True, 1890.

Pointing out that the decision of the Trustees constituted a retreat from the progressive step taken in 1871, the statement said:

> The College seeks to justify itself by an alleged act of higher generosity. She will establish within her precincts a college for women, in which they
may go on to even higher achievements. But by that decision the College confesses that she made a mistake twenty years ago, and thus places her present alumnae in the anomalous position of being the visible evidence of that mistake.  

The alumnae statement devoted four printed pages to the subject of competition between the sexes, and it kept the discussion on a high level until it reached the conclusion of the argument. Then the embattled women stated bluntly what they felt was the chief cause of men's desire to be rid of them.

The records show that the women's scholastic achievement has often surpassed the men's. Can it be that the women have taken too many college prizes for their own good? The issue is not whether men and women can recite together, whether men and women shall study this or that. It is simply the issue whether the men are willing to take the risk of having women surpass them in scholarship.

The valiant protest was of no avail. The Trustees refused to reconsider their decision and, when college reopened in the fall of 1890, the coordinate system went into effect. Two arguments had prevailed with a majority of the Trustees. First, a steady decrease in male enrollment had accompanied the increase in numbers of women; and second, the Board was convinced that the enrollment figures supported the contention that men were seeking admission to other colleges than Colby, simply because at the Waterville college the women were becoming too prominent. Whether or not the conclusion was valid, the fact that the Board accepted it was enough. President Small's plan of coordination became a fact.

When the new plan went into effect, the editor of the Colby Echo was the man who many years later would become President of the College, Franklin W. Johnson. In an editorial he expressed student opinion of the new regime.

When it was discovered that exactly twice as many women had entered in the Class of 1894 as had ever before enrolled in any freshman class, there was great jubilation over this triumph of fact over fiction. Coordination is a success. Colby has reached a new era of prosperity. A way has been found to be just and wise without being impractical. No previous editor of the Echo could possibly have said that the men in college would heartily welcome sixteen young ladies in one class. But we can sincerely say that their presence, under the coordinate system, is most cordially welcomed. We know that many supporters of the college have worried over the question, What shall we do with our girls? They believed in coeducation in theory, but very few of them had the courage of their convictions when they selected a college for their daughters. We are proud that Colby has become the pioneer of the most promising plan yet suggested to make the American college the common possession of men and women.

It was at once apparent that, if a separate college for women was to be developed, there must be more adequate housing than was afforded by the converted old farmhouse on College Avenue known as Ladies' Hall. In 1892, therefore, the Trustees launched a campaign for a women's dormitory. An attractive circular, containing an appeal signed by Josiah Drummond, chairman of the Colby Trustees, was sent widely over New England. The statement said:
At the annual meeting in June, 1892, the Trustees of Colby University voted to appoint a committee of women to solicit funds for the building of a dormitory for young women. Over sixty girls are now enrolled in the several classes, and there is every indication that the numbers will increase. Some adequate provision should be made for their care and comfort.

Attention is called to the words which this historian has italicized in the above statement. The committee to raise funds was to be distinctly a committee of women. Thus in 1892, the Colby Trustees adopted the position which they were to sustain for many years to come—a position that seriously hampered the development of equal opportunities for women on the Colby campus. The women graduates and their friends were somewhat condescendingly permitted to raise funds, secure buildings, and promote the welfare of women students, but the corporation would not officially take the lead in such endeavors. Even as late as the closing years of this century's third decade, when the handsome Alumnae Building opened its doors, the women had been tolerantly allowed to secure the necessary funds rather than actively assisted by the governing authorities.

The committee of women that launched the dormitory campaign in 1892 was headed not by a Colby graduate, but by the competent and popular wife of the Professor of Biblical Literature who had formerly been head of the college. Mrs. G. D. B. Pepper was not alone among non-Colby women in this determined group. She was eagerly joined by Mrs. Henry Burrage, wife of the leader of Maine Baptists; by Mrs. Alfred King of Portland; by the wife of Judge Percival Bonney; and by the wife of the Colby Librarian, Edward W. Hall. Of course Colby women themselves were well represented by such leaders as Mrs. Carver, Miss Coburn, Nellie Bakeman, Bertha Soule, and Anna Cummings.

The campaign was not immediately successful. The national depression of 1893 caused a scarcity of money and deep fear among persons of means. Nor was the Colby constituency, especially among the Baptists, wholeheartedly in favor of the coordinate system. Many friends of the college could not forget the strenuous opposition of Louise Coburn and her associates, when they circulated their open letter to the Trustees, although Miss Coburn herself loyally accepted the change and became a member of the small executive committee that conducted the campaign. Although the women tried very hard to secure the needed funds, the new dormitory did not become a reality until the twentieth century was well under way, and then it came, not through a wide subscription, but through the generosity of one woman. That story has its place later in this chapter.

Until 1896 the women in charge of girls at Colby were simply house mothers like Mrs. Mortimer. Then, six years after coordination had been established, Mary A. Sawtelle was elected the first Dean of the Women's College at a salary of $1000. She was given faculty status by being designated also Associate Professor of French in the Women's College. In 1898, with Miss Sawtelle still presiding, the catalogue term "Women's College" was changed to "Women's Division." The same issue of the catalogue contained a brief historical sketch.

The Board of Trustees in 1890 adopted the plan proposed by President Small, organizing within the University a college for young men and a coordinate college for young women. The conditions of entrance are identical for the two divisions. Instruction in the different branches pur-
sued in common by the men and women is given in each division separately, except in the case of lectures, which are given to the students of both divisions simultaneously, and excepting also laboratory work, in which pupils are engaged upon individual problems. In class organization, rank, prize contests, appointments, and honors, the two divisions are treated independently.

From the opening of Ladies' Hall the women students were kept under strict supervision. The following items, selected from the long list of regulations show how Colby women lived in the 1890's.

It is intended that each building occupied by the women shall be regulated upon the model of a well ordered private household. Each such building must be regarded by all students not occupying rooms in it, as a private residence, to be entered only with the consent of the occupants. It has been arranged that a family shall occupy a portion of each house in which the College furnishes rooms for young women. These families are not servants of the students. It is a part of the contract between the College and the families that the latter shall inform the Matron of any disregard of these conditions. Although the Matron has her living quarters in Ladies' Hall, she is equally responsible for the young women in all college residences.

Study hours in the women's houses must not be violated by music or any sounds above conversational tones, nor shall any student be interrupted by another student for any matter which could be attended to outside the study hours.

The young women at Ladies' Hall receive on Thursday and Saturday evenings; at Palmer House on Monday and Friday evenings; at Dunn House on Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon.

The families in the college buildings agree that the outside doors shall be locked at 10 P.M., and no student occupant is permitted out of the house later than that hour.

In 1899 Miss Sawtelle was succeeded by Grace E. Mathews as Dean. Increasingly aware that the Women's Division must be more adequately recognized, the Trustees then voted to "appoint from this Board a committee of three, consisting of the President of the College and two others, who shall associate themselves with the Dean of the Women's Division and two of the alumnae, those six to constitute the Committee on the Women's Division, to consider such matters as may be referred to it, to investigate the division, study its interests, and make such reports to the Board as it may think best." At the same time the Trustees were reluctant to spend money for the convenience of the women, because they voted that "it is inexpedient to purchase a couch for the women's waiting room in Champlin Hall." That referred to the room where the girls were permitted to study between classes.

Not until 1898 was the Dean of Women joined by another woman on the teaching staff. Then President Butler recommended the employment of "an instructor of physical culture for women." Miss Margaret Koch then started the work which now justifies the employment of three persons.

That in the early years the women were unwelcome guests in a men's college, but that the attitude of the male students toward the girls was more favorable
than the attitude of faculty and trustees, is the recollection of Miss Adelle Gil-patrick, 1892, the distinguished author of the Centennial Pageant. When she was a freshman in 1888-89, Miss Gilpatrick found very strong feeling against the women on the part of the men students. "While women had been admitted, they were barely tolerated. It took a good deal of courage for a girl to go to Colby in those days."

Miss Gilpatrick admitted that the student attitude had changed when she returned to Waterville as a teacher at Coburn in 1896. She said:

Colby then had a Men's Division and a Women's Division. We no longer heard about separate colleges. Dr. Butler accepted the situation, and did nothing to increase the separation of men and women in the classroom. He had come from Chicago, where women were treated educationally equal to men. Furthermore, he had a scholarly and talented sister whose learning he highly respected. When I returned, I found that a change had occurred in the attitude of the men students. The boys were more friendly, but the official attitude of the faculty was still one of mere toleration.

Despite the coldness of the men and despite the lack of a modern dormitory, women continued to enroll in ever increasing numbers. It had been far from the official intent that the Women's College or the Women's Division should ever number as many students as its male counterpart. To stem the rising tide the Trustees voted in 1900 that the women's enrollment should be limited to those who could be accommodated in the college residences for women, unless a girl lived with her parents in the town. In the autumn of the same year the Trustees appointed a Committee on the Future Policy of the College, and the report of that committee relighted the smouldering fires of controversy.

How Colby men felt about the influx of women in the 1890's is revealed in a letter written by Charles K. Merriam, 1875, of Spokane, Washington, to his classmate, Leslie C. Cornish, a member of that special committee on future policy.

I am sorry that what some wiseacres said way back in the '70's has become virtually true in regard to Colby's policy of admitting women; namely, that it would become a women's college. This is as sad as it is true, and the fact having been proven by actual experiment, there remains but one thing to do. If Colby is to be retained as a college for higher education of boys, she must exclude the girls. If the buildings now occupied by girls could be used as a nucleus for a separate institution, I would like to see it done, but not under the Colby name. Such a separate women's college should have a different name.

From the final sentences in the above statement it is clear that Miss Gilpatrick was wrong in thinking that the idea of separate colleges did not again arise after 1896. It became a very real issue in President White's administration. It was on the eve of White's inaugural that the special committee presented its report to the Board. That committee had been composed of three trustees: Charles E. Owen, Alfred King, and Leslie C. Cornish. The majority report, signed by Owen and King, said:

We believe that Colby should continue to use its equipment for the higher education of both men and women, and that the number of each
sex should be limited only by the means of the college to provide suitable accommodations and competent instruction.

We therefore recommend that the system of coordination be continued. As the condition of the College shall allow, the students of each division should become separated in chapel, exercises, recitations, lectures, public and Commencement exercises, and every effort should be made to secure this as soon as possible.

Mr. Cornish, the brilliant lawyer who would later become Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court, did not agree with his two colleagues. Let us see how Lawyer Cornish argued the opposition case in his minority report.

It is admitted that the number of women applicants is increasing much faster than the number of men, so that in a few years the women will outnumber the men. There are fewer men in college today than at any time in the past ten years. In 1891 there were 137 men; today there are only 123. By contrast, 1891 saw only 47 women in the college; today there are 80.

When the women shall outnumber the men, the latter will feel that they are attending a woman's college, and the number of men will be further lessened. Many desirable young men are already repelled from Colby because of the large number of women here.

What today strikes us as a strange argument was Cornish's legal interpretation of the word “youth.” He said: “The institution was chartered as a literary and theological institution for ‘the education of youth.’ I think that word would be interpreted by any court to signify only young men.”

The minority report concluded with these words: “I am not opposed to the higher education of women. On the contrary, I favor it; but I am also in favor of sending our youth to a college for men and our women to a college for women.”

When the issue came to a vote, Cornish could win only one other trustee to his side, and the majority report was adopted by a vote of fourteen to two. The decision was made. Colby remained coordinate. There was no intent, even on the part of the most ardent male supporters of the women, that Colby should ever be coeducational.

President White was not content with the coordinate system. He did not agree with Cornish that the girls should be summarily ejected, but he did contend that the aim should be the establishment of two separate colleges, as had been proposed before Small offered his compromise of coordination. That he pushed for further separation into two colleges is shown by a vote of the Trustees in June, 1902: “We approve of the recommendation of the President for the separation of the Women’s Department from the Men’s by the establishment of a new college for women, as soon as financial conditions will permit, and we urge the President to continue his exertions toward the establishment of that result.”

The Trustees went even further in January, 1905, when they voted: “The Women’s Division of Colby College shall be made into a separate college with a separate name, a separate catalogue, separate public exhibitions, a separate Commencement, and separate recitations. There may be common use of the library and the laboratories. There shall be one treasurer for both institutions, and the administration and instruction of the new college shall, so far as possible, be the same as that given to Colby College.”
The new Dean of the Women’s Division, Grace E. Berry, who had succeeded Dean Mathews in 1902, supported President White’s plan, but she laid down an important provision. The plan would not be feasible, she insisted, unless the women’s college should be located on a new, expandable site at some distance from the men’s college.

The suggestion that the new college take the former name attached to Colby, the name Waterville College, met with general approval. The Trustees proceeded at once to draw up the following plan for its operation.

The officers of the new college shall be the same as those of Colby College, and the annual meeting of the Trustees of Waterville College shall occur on the date of the meeting of the Trustees of Colby College.

The President and Faculty of Waterville College shall be the same as the President and Faculty of Colby College, with the exception of such additional instructors in either separate college as shall be found necessary.

The entrance requirements for Waterville College shall be the same as those for Colby College, and the courses of instruction for the first year shall be the same in both colleges.

In June, 1905, the Committee on the Women’s College reported that it would take time to put the plan into effective operation. “The idea cannot be realized in one year,” they said, “because an educational institution cannot be made; it must grow.” The best the committee could do was to recommend that such further separation be worked out as could be effected without increased expense, and that a special committee seek funds for the endowment of a separate women’s college.

It was President Charles Lincoln White who was chiefly responsible for the building of Foss Hall, the first Colby building especially constructed for the Women’s Division. The continued efforts of the committee of women, begun a decade earlier, had not brought the desired results. One of the persons largely responsible for White’s selection as President had been William H. Snyder, 1885. A popular teacher at Worcester Academy, Snyder came to know intimately one of its trustees and a prominent Worcester Baptist, William H. Dexter. Like Gardner Colby, Mr. Dexter had risen from humble boyhood circumstances to a position of wealth and influence. When White became the Colby President, he turned to Snyder to help him induce Mrs. Dexter to make a substantial gift to Colby. Mrs. Dexter took a liking to the new president, who, as their acquaintance ripened, decided to present to her the bold project that she provide entirely the needed funds for the long awaited dormitory for women.

Born in Wayne, Maine, Mrs. Dexter had never lost her love for her native state. She told President White that it had long been her hope some day to provide a home for other girls in Maine, that they might have the education which she could not get. She agreed to give $40,000 for the erection of such a building at Colby.

The task of establishing the Women’s College on a new site, far removed from other property already being used for the women, proved not practicable even if it could have been financed. The proposed dormitory would not contain enough space to provide classrooms, chapel, and other necessary facilities. Com-
mon sense finally dictated that the building should be erected on land which the College already owned on the Avenue, directly across the street from Ladies Hall. That decision sealed the fate of the contemplated Women's College. Although coordination continued as administrative policy, with many classes separated by sex, with no competition for honors and prizes, and with a noticeable double standard in regulations, the tendency to coeducation in practice was clearly predicted. As time went on, it became quite conventional to think of boys and girls in the same classrooms; social life gradually became more normal between the two divisions; and the numerous separate student organizations, such as the YMCA and the YWCA, began to work together. But those changes required many years of patient and persistent efforts by the women, who demanded recognition as simple justice. It should be recalled that our whole nation had to wait until the second decade of this century for the political emancipation of women. It is small wonder, though highly regrettable, that in most American colleges, even those avowedly coeducational, women students were treated as second-class citizens until comparatively recent times.

In the fall of 1905, Eliza Foss Dexter was present at the dedication of the building to which was given her family name of Foss. Present also was her brother, Eugene Foss, who a few years later became Governor of Massachusetts.

For some time President White had been cultivating officials of the General Education Board, and the rumor persisted that those officials would assist Colby only if it became a women's college. So horror-stricken were many Colby men that they denounced all attempts to secure such aid and they nearly wrecked the President's carefully laid plans to get assistance from what was then the nation's largest philanthropy to higher education. On President White's invitation, Dr. Wallace Buttrick of the General Education Board attended the annual meeting of the Colby Trustees in 1907, and authorized a public statement denying the rumor and announcing that the Board believed the present coordinate system was best for Colby.

Did the women fare better under Arthur Roberts, who between his entrance as a freshman in 1886 and his election to the presidency in 1908, had seen plenty of women in Colby classrooms? When President White was asked how his proposed successor felt about women in the college, he wrote to Dudley P. Bailey: "If I understand Roberts rightly, he believes that the Women's Division should be separated educationally, socially, and in every way, as far and as rapidly as possible. His views regarding this separation are in strict accord with those of Professor Taylor, who strongly favors Roberts' election as president."

Between 1909 and 1920 the Women's Division had six successive deans: Carrie E. Small, Elizabeth Bass, Florence E. Carll, Mary C. Cooper, Anna A. Raymond, and Alice May Holmes. None of them remained longer than three years. All worked diligently on behalf of the girls, but several of them were handicapped by having the title of Acting Dean, while President Roberts tried to make up his mind concerning a significant but definitely subordinate administration of the distaff side of the college. Miss Adelle Gilpatrick has told the story, from the viewpoint of the constantly frustrated women.

The first deans of the Women's Division were little more than house mothers. Mary Sawtelle and Grace Mathews were superior women who understood Colby and were highly respected. Their successors too were
well trained and devoted administrators, but they were helpless under the official determination to keep the women subordinate to the men. When an increasing number of Colby women graduates found that Colby was not recognized by the American Association of University Women, because there had never been a woman in the rank of full professor at Colby, the Alumnae Association appointed a committee to interview President Roberts about the situation. The committee consisted of Miss Louise Coburn, Mrs. Harriet Bessey, and myself. With fear and trembling we went to the President's house. With Miss Coburn as chairman we got a courteous hearing. "Rob" acknowledged he had not been very successful in selecting deans whom he was willing to place in full professorship. He told us he did not understand women very well. It was quite a session and we aired all our grievances. Finally "Rob" promised to do something about it, saying, "When I select another dean, it will be a Colby woman and one whom I know."

President Roberts brilliantly fulfilled that promise, for in 1920 he called to the position of Dean of Women Miss Ninetta Runnals, who for more than a quarter of a century exerted such sound and progressive leadership and won such esteem from Colby men as well as from Colby women that when she retired in 1949 her alma mater had become truly coeducational, with the women students given equal status beside the men.

It was largely in response to Miss Coburn's insistence that the Trustees, in 1920, passed the following vote: "We hereby establish the policy that women on the faculty shall receive the same pay as men of equal rank, and that they shall have equal opportunity for promotion."

At the annual meeting of the Trustees in June, 1920, the Committee on Professorships presented the following report:

The Committee has considered for Dean of the Women's Division Miss Nettie M. Runnals, a graduate of the College in the Class of 1908. Miss Runnals has been for a number of years a very successful preceptress at Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, leaving there three years ago to do graduate work at Columbia University. There Miss Runnals received her Master's Degree in education, and for the past two years she has been teaching in a girls' school in Pennsylvania. Miss Runnals is a woman of character, of attractive personality, and a great deal of successful experience in dealing with girls. She could in all probability be secured for the coming year for $1500 and her home.

That last sentence is most revealing. A college that had just raised half a million dollars for endowment, to which Colby women as well as men had generously contributed, was invited to accept a new dean of women because the committee thought she could be obtained at a bargain.

President Roberts' customary caution dictated that even this highly recommended dean must undergo a trial period. The Trustees accepted his suggestion that Miss Runnals be engaged as Acting Dean. So successful was her first year that in 1921 she became fully recognized Dean of Women and was given an increase in salary of five hundred dollars. Shortly afterward she was elected to a full professorship in mathematics, and at last Colby became eligible for a chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Dean Runnals at once instituted a quiet, but effective campaign for better recognition of the Women's Division. She won the confidence and deep respect of
Mrs. Eleanora Woodman, who not only provided for an infirmary and a resident nurse at Foss Hall, but also made many other gifts for the benefit of women students. It was that trio—Miss Coburn, Mrs. Woodman, and Dean Runnals—who prevailed upon President Roberts to give better recognition to the Women’s Division both in respect to college regulations and in respect to budget. It is unfair to assume that Roberts was stubbornly prejudiced against women students. He would never have admitted that to hold women in subordination to men was prejudiced. It was a natural result of the plan of creation. Roberts’ two paradoxical characteristics were his genuine concern for the individual student and his caution with college funds, approaching miserliness. Everywhere he found it necessary to save pennies, and what better place was there to save them than in a subordinate division of the college?

Whether it was because she felt constantly frustrated in her attempts to get even the necessary repairs on the Women’s building, to say nothing of funds to increase their educational opportunities, or whether it was the allurement of greener fields elsewhere, Dean Runnals decided to leave Colby in 1926, whereupon she enjoyed two successful years as Dean of Women at Hillsdale College in Michigan. But fortunately for Colby, she was induced to return to her alma mater in 1928 and never again was she lured away from the Colby scene.

During the two years of Miss Runnals’ absence the office of dean was competently filled by Miss Ertna Reynolds, 1914, who not only presided over the Women’s Division, but also did much to bring the campaign for the Alumnae Building to a successful conclusion.

Plans for a physical education and recreation building for the women had begun as early as 1921, when Miss Adelle Gilpatrick, as President of the Alumnae Association, convinced a number of her fellow alumnae that the band of Colby women was now strong enough to raise, by their own efforts, sufficient funds to build a gymnasium for the girls. In the spring of 1922 the campaign received splendid impetus when Miss Louise Coburn gave $10,000. Each succeeding issue of the Alumnus carried an expanding list of contributors, but it required a long, hard pull to get the hundred thousand dollars needed to erect the building, which was to include extensive recreational facilities, a fully equipped gymnasium, and a swimming pool. Already Miss Gilpatrick and her committee knew that success was just around the corner. It was definitely assured when Miss Florence Dunn, 1896, announced her magnificent gift of $25,000. Miss Gilpatrick tells how the goal was finally attained. It was that loyal friend of both men and women at Colby who came to the rescue. “Dr. Frank Padelford, Secretary of the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention, who had already secured generous grants for Colby, persuaded his board to give $20,000 to our building fund.” Thus at the meeting of the Trustees in November, 1927, Dr. George Otis Smith proudly announced that there was now available for the building $96,000. Plans had already been accepted and construction was under way. The cornerstone was laid on June 16, 1928. Eight months later, on February 19, 1929, alumnae and friends gathered for the formal opening. Appropriately in the receiving line stood Miss Gilpatrick, Dean Runnals, Miss Dunn, and the Alumnae Secretary, Alice Purinton.

Even while the campaign for the Alumnae Building was under way, the demand for a separate women’s college was raised again, this time by the same Dr. Padelford who was to get the final funds to complete the new building. At the Trustees meeting in April, 1925, Dr. Padelford had introduced the following resolution:
Realizing the advantage for the education of women in New England of a separate and distinct college for women in Maine, and encouraged by the results of more than fifty years of experience in the education of women at Colby, Be it resolved, that the Trustees of Colby College declare their readiness to arrange for the separation of the Women's Division into a distinct college for women at Waterville, affiliated with Colby, but under a separate name, and under terms of management to be agreed upon later, provided the funds can be secured to assure its adequate financing.

The Board laid the resolution on the table and it was never resurrected. Dr. Padelford himself came to the conviction that a separate college, rather than coordination, was not feasible. The newspapers of Maine, led by the Portland Press, had taken up the cry for a women's college in the state. At a meeting of the Maine Teachers Association in 1927, Dean Marriner, as chairman of the Colby Executive Committee, made the point that, if a woman's college were to be established, the Women's Division at Colby offered a ready-made nucleus for such an institution, since the Colby system of coordination rendered separation easier than it would be in a coeducational college. The agitation was short lived, and after the Alumnae Building was opened in 1929 nothing more was heard about a degree-granting college for women anywhere in Maine.

Colby was ninety years old before its association of male alumni was permitted representation on the Board of Trustees, but the women graduates had to wait until twenty-four years later before they were granted representation. To be sure, they tried to get it soon after the men won their victory in 1903. For five years the Trustees turned a deaf ear to the women's plea, but in 1909 they made a gesture of consent. Although the Board would not permit the Alumnae Association to elect a representative, those male governors of a coordinate college did promise to elect to the Board a woman recommended by the Alumnae Association as soon as there should be a vacancy. Not until 1911 did a vacancy occur, but the alert women saw to it that the Trustees were reminded of their promise. In that year, on recommendation of the alumnae, Louise Coburn became the first woman member of the Colby Trustees.

Although Miss Coburn continued to be an influential member of the Board until failing health necessitated her resignation in 1930, that lone representation did not satisfy the women. They saw no reason why their association, as well as that of the men, should not elect members directly to the Board. Their request was referred to a committee consisting of Frank Padelford, George Otis Smith, and Charles Gurney, who made a favorable report at the Board's meeting in November, 1930, recommending that the College Charter be amended to provide for the election of six trustees by the alumni and three by the alumnae. The Board accepted the committee's recommendations, authorized an enabling petition to the Legislature, which on February 27, 1931, voted the proposed amendment (see Appendix S). Thus, since 1931, nine members of the Board have always represented the graduate body, and even after the men and women were merged into a single graduate group, with a single governing body called the Alumni Council, the proportion of men and women elected to the Board of Trustees remained in the same two to one ratio.

In the 1930's the College published separate promotional booklets for the two divisions. They were called *Men's Booklet* and *Women's Booklet*. Later they were merged into a single volume under the title *About Colby*. Significantly,
the introductory statement in the Women's Booklet in 1932 made no mention of Colby's having been a college for men during more than half a century before women were admitted. It did not even state that the College had men in 1932. It simply said:

This is one of the old seats of learning in New England. Since 1818 Colby has been building up its own rich traditions and the distinctive spirit of which Colby graduates are so proud. Sound in academic standing, friendly and democratic in spirit, Colby aims to foster and preserve the finest standards of gracious womanhood.

During President Johnson's administration the Women's Division gained in prestige and influence. Instead of only three women—the Dean, an instructor of physical education, and a teacher of music—the faculty women numbered six when Johnson left the presidential office in 1942. They were Dean Runnals, ranking as professor of mathematics; Mary Marshall, associate professor of English; Alice Pattee Comparetti, instructor in English; Janet Marchant and Elizabeth Kelley, instructors in physical education; and Caroline Cole, instructor in religion.

Between the coming of Dean Runnals in 1920 and the inauguration of President Bixler in 1942 the enrollment of women did not increase comparably with that of men, but solely for the reason that housing facilities for the former were not expanded as they were for the latter. Before World War I in 1914 there were 173 women. In 1920 the number had increased to 217. By 1942 the women's numbers had risen to 267, filling not only the older dormitories, but several homes in the city which the college had leased. The fact that in that autumn women moved into Mary Low and Louise Coburn halls on Mayflower Hill did not leave the way open to admit larger numbers immediately, because the College Training Detachment of the Army Air Corps took over completely the facilities of Foss Hall.

Let us now see how steadily, but almost imperceptibly, Colby changed in fact from coordination to coeducation. We have seen that Charles Lincoln White came to Colby as its president almost contemporaneously with the new century. What was the position of Colby women in 1901? By that time the Christian Associations of the two divisions had joined in the publication of an annual handbook, designed especially to inform the freshmen, but presented to all students when the new college year opened in September. That handbook is the first indication that the men and women ever did anything together as a joint enterprise. Even then the domination of the men was strikingly evident. Although the YWCA was given equal space with the YMCA, in description of its activities and its list of officers and committees, no other organization of women was even mentioned except the Sigma Kappa sorority, the literary society Beta Phi, and the two honorary societies for women, Kappa Alpha and Chi Gamma Theta. From a perusal of the handbook one would suppose that the women had no class officers, no organized sports, and no house rules, though much space was given to those areas of campus life for the men. The book says that "there are various means to earn money, such as the care of college buildings, tending furnaces, etc., both at the college and in the city"—not a word about the opportunities for girls who waited on table, tended bells and performed other duties at Ladies Hall. Seven pages were devoted to Athletics without any reference to the women. The Musical Clubs, called the Glee Club, Mandolin-Guitar Club, and Orchestra, were exclusively men's
organizations. The same was true of the Dramatic Club and the Debating Club. Information regarding rooms for men fills four pages, while the statement about women’s rooms is limited to two brief sentences: “Ladies desiring rooms should write to the Dean of the Women’s Division. The College furnishes only chamber sets, mattresses, pillows, stoves and curtains.”

How much had the situation changed by 1913, when this historian was a Colby senior? The handbook was still a joint publication of the YMCA and the YWCA, and these two organizations were naturally featured in its pages. The strict separation of the two divisions was still apparent. The twelve years since 1901 had brought in musical clubs for women as well as for men, but the girls still had no part in dramatics or debating. More space was now given to women’s dormitories, because Foss Hall had been erected nine years earlier. Palmer House had been renamed Mary Low Hall, and the large enrollment of girls had necessitated the use of a third dormitory called Dutton House. No recognition was yet given to class officers of the women, but half a page called attention to “Athletics of the Women’s Division.” The announcement said, “Basketball is a popular sport among the women, and the sophomore-freshman game has become a feature of Women’s Colby Day.” Other sports enjoyed by the girls were tennis, tether-ball, bowling and croquet.

Fourteen years later, in the last year of President Roberts’ administration, religious activities were directed by the beloved Herbert L. Newman, but the associations still operated separately except for publication of the handbook. By this time, however, the handbook’s advice to freshmen concerned both men and women. On arrival, the students were told: “If you are a woman, go directly to Foss Hall, which you may use as a base for further expeditions under guidance of members of the YWCA. The men should hunt up ‘Chef’ Weymouth, the godfather of all freshmen, in the Y room at Hedman Hall.” Space was now given not merely to the names of the sororities, but also to the lists of members. Organizations of the Women’s Division included musical clubs, dramatic club, health league, Daughters of Colby, and the Aroostook Club. Not yet were the musical clubs united; only the men’s club gave concerts in neighboring towns. It would be many years before girls would be permitted to play in the college band. By 1927 student government had become more active, but under separate bodies, the Men’s Student Council and the Women’s Student League.

Of course between 1901 and 1927 social life had become less restricted and the college men and women did meet together on other occasions than church “sociables” or during the formal calling hours at the women’s dormitories. The Junior Prom in April and the Senior Hop in June were occasions when local clothiers had to put in a liberal rental stock of “tails and white ties,” and the local “ten cent teams” exploited the parties by charging profiteering rates to transport a girl and her escort back to Foss Hall after the dance. Favorite places for the big dances were Elks Hall, the KP Hall on Silver Street, and the Ticonic Club House in Winslow. Refreshments were usually served by Hagar the Caterer. In 1913 elaborate fraternity dances in out-of-town halls were unheard of, but by 1927 each fraternity was having a “spring formal.”

Although many rules had been relaxed and girls were beginning to take rides in the very few automobiles available to college men, even in 1927 no Colby girl could smoke at the College without fear of expulsion. Probably at no time since the first parties were held at Colby had chaperonage been popular, but by 1927 young people held it in outright disrepute. The “naughty nineteen twenties,” which
seem rather sedate and sober when looked upon in retrospect from the "beatnik" era of 1960, heard the rallying cry of independence for the nation's youth. It was not an easy time to guide and influence young people, but Colby had the person who could do it in Dean Ninetta Runnals. That Colby social life came through those trying years triumphantly is due almost entirely to her unceasing efforts.

By 1936 Dean Runnals' wise guidance had made the Student League such an effective self-governing body that it put to shame the weaker Student Council of the men. She had instituted the powerful elective office of house chairman and the even more powerful Executive Board, which had substantial control over discipline in the Women's Division.

As an instance of changing mores, note what the women's regulations in 1936 had to say about smoking:

The Executive Board of the Student League acknowledges smoking to be a personal habit, subject outside of college limits to the good taste of the individual. Smoking is permitted in the smaller social room in Foss Hall, that room being reserved for use of the girls only, and men are not entertained there. Women are not permitted to smoke elsewhere on the campus except in the small social room.

Impetus to further cooperation came in 1934, when Professor Newman organized the Council on Religion. Although the YMCA and the YWCA still functioned separately, the Council, on which both men and women were represented, served as "a clearing house for the many religious organizations of the college and for cooperation with the local churches." In 1936 the religious groups went a step further with the organization of the Student Christian Movement (later called the Student Christian Association) a truly coeducational body. In the same year Powder and Wig was opened to women, and shortly afterward the Colby Outing Club was formed, one of the earliest organizations to have members of both sexes from its inception.

It was the Second World War that brought the emancipation of Colby women. Ever since its founding in the 1870's the *Colby Echo* had had a male editor. Instead of being published "by the students of Colby College," that paper had been entirely controlled by the men, who somewhat grudgingly elected a woman's editor to fill a few inches in each issue with items from the female side of the college. When there remained only a handful of civilian men in the student body, as was the case through the war years, the women took over not only the *Echo*, but also dramatics, musical clubs, and other organizations. Given the chance to exercise leadership, the women did so well that not even the post-war influx of men could displace them. After 1945 a woman was quite as likely to be elected to a student office as was a man.

A comparison of the *Colby Oracle* for the years 1939 and 1945 is instructive on this point. The picture of the *Echo* staff in 1939 shows nineteen men and four women. The *Oracle* staff shows five men and one woman, and the Council on Religion eight men and two women. In 1945 the class officers of every class were all women. On the Executive Council of the Student Christian Association were two men and four women. The Glee Club, composed of both male and female voices, had twelve men and sixty-four women. The membership of the Bowen Society, a group majoring in Biology, was made up entirely of women. On the
Oracle board there was not one man, and the whole Echo staff had only four men surrounded by forty women.

When the Class of 1948 were seniors there was a joint student council to which were elected an equal number of men and women, although the Women's Student Government continued to function in regard to matters pertaining strictly to the girls. In that year the Oracle board had five men and three women, but the executive board of the Echo was composed of six women and three men. The governing board of the SCA had twelve women and six men, on Powder and Wig were ten men and five women, and even in the Colby Medical Society, a group of students preparing for medicine and other related fields, the women outnumbered the men ten to six. On the Outing Club Council four men worked with seven women; the men had a mere majority in the Yacht Club; only three men served with seven women on the Social Committee. Women were represented on the governing bodies of the Camera Club, the Radio Council, and the Debating Society. At last the Oracle had begun to publish the pictures of seniors, not in two separate sections for men and women, but in a single alphabetical order. Women now played in the college band and played softball with the men.

One of the greatest changes brought by the war was the increase in student marriages. It had long been taken for granted that, if a woman student married, she must leave college. The high quality of academic work performed by the married veterans and the dignified decorum of their wives led the college authorities to look upon student marriages with greater leniency. When two students married, they were both permitted to continue in college and were frequently rented an apartment in the temporary buildings intended originally to house only married veterans. In the early 1950's one girl who had married during her college course received her diploma only a few hours ahead of the stork's visit.

Between 1903 and 1950 the change had been gradual, not deliberate, and it was the Second World War which finally gave Colby women equal recognition in the organizations and social life of the college. Changing mores in our whole society, especially in regard to young people, played no small part in this development of the non-academic side of coeducation. What about the academic area, which Presidents Small, White, and Roberts had regarded as already too thoroughly intermingled and which they desired to push completely into two separate compartments?

Long before Pearl Harbor, Colby women had been taken for granted in mixed classrooms. By the time when classes were first held on Mayflower Hill the only segregated classes were those in physical education and in freshman English, and the latter persisted more from convenience than from necessity. In a few years the separation in English had also disappeared and all academic work was done without any thought of segregation. In 1960 Colby College was coeducational by every test of activity except those over which the Trustees exercised direct control. Because the governing board had never seen fit to change the organization they had made at President Small's request in 1890, the Colby catalogue seventy years later still carried two separate lists of students, men and women, and on Commencement Day two separate lines marched to the platform for their diplomas.
CHAPTER XLI

The Early Societies

Just as religion was responsible for the beginning of Colby College, so too was it the reason for the first student societies, the forerunners of the Greek letter fraternities.

In the records of a later society for the year 1858 is an historical account of the first student organization at Waterville College. So far as is known, no society was organized by the students of the Maine Literary and Theological Institution between its opening in June, 1818 and its transformation in 1820. But when the struggling little school became a full-fledged, degree-granting college, its students felt the time had come for an organization such as already existed at Bowdoin, Brown, and Dartmouth.

At a meeting held on October 10, 1820, a constitution, prepared by George Dana Boardman, Calvin Holton, and Ephraim Tripp, was adopted by a group of interested students. It was called the Philathean Society, and the members pledged themselves "to cultivate a spirit of unanimity and friendship in their social and literary intercourse."

From the beginning the Philathicans concerned themselves with literary as well as religious topics, although the emphasis was upon religion. At the first meeting on November 1, 1820, there was an extemporaneous discussion between Bela Wilcox and Elijah Foster on "Is it our privilege to be at all times free from doubts respecting our interest in Christ?" John Hovey read a communication respecting revivals of religion. George Boardman and Hadley Procter debated the question, "For what should the most speedy exertions be made, to christianize the savages of our own nation or the people of heathen lands?"

Colby's first graduate and renowned missionary to Burma, George Dana Boardman, was the Philatheans' first president, and he proudly presided at the society's first anniversary, held in the Waterville Public Meetinghouse on the common between Main and Front Streets on August 13, 1821. That event was the beginning of a long continued practice, the use of Tuesday evening of Commencement (the evening before the graduation exercises) for an annual program by the student society or societies. For fourteen years the Philathican Society served as the fountainhead of missionary interest at the College until its dissolution on June 7, 1834.

The many hundreds of fraternity men among present Colby alumni may be interested to know something about the nine men who were charter members of Colby's first student society. George Dana Boardman is well known as the Colby man who followed Adoniram Judson to the Burma mission field. Ephraim Tripp
founded a female seminary in Mississippi. Elijah Foster became a minister in Massachusetts and died at age of 35. Henry Paine was one of the earliest principals of what is now Coburn Classical Institute. Hadley Procter was principal of Elijah Lovejoy's old school, China Academy, during the three years when Lovejoy was a student at the College. Calvin Holton went to Africa as a missionary and died there at the age of 29. Nothing is known of Bela Wilcox. John Hovey went to Michigan, where he spent a long life as a teacher. Willard Glover was a leading Baptist minister in several Maine parishes until his death in 1866. Those were the nine students of Waterville College who started its first undergraduate organization in pursuit of religion and literature.

For several years previous to 1834 meetings of the Philathetan Society had been infrequent and interest had waned. Several of the more devout members were determined to change it into distinctly a missionary society. They succeeded in securing a vote for dissolution of the old organization in June, 1834, and they at once petitioned the Trustees for the right to form a new body to be called the Boardman Missionary Society of Waterville College. Permission was granted, and on September 15, 1834, the Boardman Society was formed, with Amariah Joy as president and Marshman Williams as secretary. The new constitution set forth as the society's purpose "to devise and prosecute measures for the extension of Christianity; to acquire and disseminate a knowledge of the literature, morals and religion of different countries, and of the causes that operate on the moral improvement of mankind." The program at each meeting was to be consistent with the society's purpose.

In the early years of the nineteenth century no college society was deemed worthy of existence unless it possessed a library. The Philathetan Society was no exception, and this explains a vote passed by the Boardman Missionary Society on November 15, 1834: "Since the Philathetan Society, previous to its dissolution, had voted to present its library to the Boardman Missionary Society, together with all the money in the Philathetan treasury, it was voted to express our thanks to the committee representing the Philathetan Society; and it was further voted that George Townsend and Franklin Merriam prepare a catalogue of the books in the Boardman Missionary Society."

In February, 1835, the Boardman Society voted "to lay before the public the wants of the Society and request aid on the enlargement of our library." At the end of March thirty dollars had been collected. It is well to mention a point that will be more fully discussed in the subsequent chapter on The College Library; namely, that in the early years at Colby the libraries of the several societies were more extensive and more commonly used by students than was the college library itself.

In June, 1835, the Boardman Society petitioned the Trustees for a room to be exclusively assigned for the society's use "in the chapel about to be built." That referred to the third building erected at the College, Recitation Hall. The requested room was duly assigned.

The questions debated at the Boardman meetings were certainly pertinent to the society's avowed object. Ought students studying for the ministry to decide early whether they will become foreign missionaries? Is it the duty of Christians to give their whole property, exclusive of what is necessary for their competence and that of their families, to assist in the work of converting the world? Ought missionaries to continue their instruction in a foreign land after being forbidden by the civil authorities? In 1840 the Millerites, with their prediction of the immi-
nent end of the world, were attracting wide attention. So the Boardman Society solemnly debated the question, Is Mr. Miller's theory founded on evidence sufficient to give it a claim to our credence? After discussion, they voted six to five in the affirmative, and they voted to purchase for the society library a copy of Miller's Lectures.

It was the Boardman Society that started the custom of having a guest orator for the annual observance at Commencement, a custom continued until the last quarter of the century by the literary societies. The first orator, who graced the observance in 1835, was Stephen B. Page, then a student at Newton. After 1840 the oration took the form of a "missionary address."

The Boardman Society showed little vigor after 1843, but it was not until 1855 that it was dissolved and its library presented to the College. That, however, was not the end. In 1858 there occurred a stirring religious revival in Waterville, as a result of which a group of students decided to revive the society that had honored the name of the first missionary graduate. So, on June 4 of that year, "the students interested in the organization of the Boardman Missionary Society met in Dr. Champlin's recitation room, chose Everett Pattison president, and adopted a constitution."

The revived society set as its object "to aid each other in obtaining missionary intelligence, cultivate a missionary spirit, and unite Christians more firmly in fellowship and effort." Any student of the College who gave "evidence of piety in devoted Christian life" could become a member. The weekly program was to consist of a missionary biography, discussion of a question of strictly religious nature, and a religious essay. It was the duty of the treasurer to present during each term "a subscription paper for the cause of missions." The Society took special interest in the aroused public attention to Sabbath Schools and had a committee "to give supervision to Sabbath Schools in the vicinity of Waterville."

Among the subjects spiritedly debated was, "Will anyone who has never heard of the Messiah be finally saved?" After very heated argument, the vote went 8 to 6 in the affirmative. When the Civil War broke out, the Society debated, "Is it the duty of young men intending to enter the ministry to enlist in the war?" The decision was 9 to 3 in the negative. A few years later they decided that the call for missionary labor among the freedmen of the South was not more urgent than the missionary call to the foreign field.

In the 1870's the society manifested a missionary interest in the immediate vicinity. "After an expression of willingness and desire on the part of several members to undertake Christian work in neighborhoods outside the village, it was voted to enter upon such work at once."

In 1871 there had been organized the YMCA of Colby University. Its purpose and its programs proved to be very similar to those of the Boardman Society, except for the latter's emphasis upon missions. Hence in 1875 the two groups voted to merge into a single society known as the Boardman Missionary Society and YMCA.

In 1882 the joint society sent a delegation to the International Convention of the YMCA at Charlestown, Massachusetts, and the negro janitor of the College, Sam Osborne, was made a member. The next year saw a strong movement in favor of doing away with the Boardman Society altogether, and making Colby's one religious organization for men the YMCA. After months of negotiation, the matter came to an impasse, and on June 18, the missionary-minded members met in separate session and voted to reorganize separately the Boardman Missionary Society.
The revival was short-lived, however. On September 30, 1885, the Boardman Missionary Society disbanded and its funds were transferred to the treasurer of the YMCA. But even that second dissolution was not the end of the Boardman Society. Three times after 1885 it was revived, only to lapse again. But, in the early 1900’s it showed sufficient strength to secure incorporation into the Commencement program of a Sunday evening service designated for many years as the Boardman Sermon.

Just before the Civil War another religious society had been established as a rival of the Boardman Society, the Pauloi, or the Society of Paul. The first item in its original record book tells us how it started.

Among a few professors of Christ connected with Waterville College during the fall of 1860, the project was earnestly considered of establishing some society which might bring them into a closer union with the Savior. A meeting was held at which J. A. Smith was president and Richard C. Shannon secretary. Shannon, having been called upon to read such suggestions as he had prepared on the character and aims of the society, complied. These, having been approved by the brethren, were ordered to be made the basis of a constitution.

Thus we learn that the actual originator of this sanctimonious society was none other than that Civil War officer, builder of railroads, ambassador to foreign lands, and donor of Colby’s physics building on the old campus, Colonel Richard Cutts Shannon, 1862.

Upon becoming a member of Pauloi each initiate signed a solemn pledge that he would “faithfully attend every college prayer meeting, diligently perform every college exercise, and strive to avoid indulgence in all foolish and vulgar jesting.” So saintly self-righteous did Pauloi become that, when the Society discussed “the true mode of baptism,” Brother B--- was excluded from the discussion because of his “heretical views.” They also voted not to increase their membership because such action would “have a tendency to lessen the feeling of responsibility that now prevails.”

Such smugness could not last. The record for November 19, 1860, tells us: “Not much headway was made on the business of the meeting. The members were more inclined to consider the approaching examinations and prospects of teaching during the winter vacation.” Enlistments in the Civil War were enough to close the society anyhow in 1862, but by its very nature it could not have survived much longer, war or no war.

One activity of Pauloi was, however, of lasting benefit. That was the society’s religious work among the French Canadians in that part of Waterville known as the Plains. The record of a meeting on July 7, 1861, says: “Brother Dore spoke of his work among the French. Instead of being repulsed, he was gladly received. He gave an interesting account of his first meeting by the river side. He found their minds were benighted and that many parents as well as children could not read.” Thus Pauloi picked up the work begun by Jonathan Furbush in the 1830’s, a work in which many Colby students were devotedly engaged for half a century.

As early as 1824 there were undergraduates who were not content to see their societies restricted to religious interests. So there was organized the Antithesian Society. The name was changed a year later to the Social Fraternity, and in 1828 it became the Literary Fraternity and so remained until its dissolution in 1878.
In 1835 the Literary Fraternity was confronted with a rival, the Erosophian Adelphi, and for more than forty years the two societies existed, sometimes in friendly cooperation, at other times in cold war. Even after the founding of the Greek letter fraternities, the two older societies stayed on. Many Colby men were members both of a Greek letter fraternity and of one of the literary societies.

At first the Literary Fraternity had restricted membership, its constitution providing that "no person shall be admitted into the society who is not advanced one term in the freshman class, and the number elected from our class shall not exceed one half of that class." But when the Erosophian constitution provided that "any member of the College may become a member of this society by subscribing his name to the constitution and paying two dollars to the Treasurer," the Literary Fraternity had to meet the competition. This led to a clash with the faculty, when that body tried to get the two societies to divide each freshman class between them. Having amended their constitution to comply with that of the rival Erosophian, the Literary Fraternity voted that "if any member of this society decides that our constitution should be so altered as to admit only one-half of the freshman class, he shall be considered worthy of expulsion." When the faculty notified each society that it could initiate not more than one-half of the freshmen, there ensued an indignant meeting of the Literary Fraternity, the record of which ends with the secretary's battle cry, "Don't give up the ship!" The society firmly resolved that, "while we lament the circumstances in which we find ourselves placed by the late difference between this society and the government of the College, we believe that the course we have pursued is strictly proper and just, and we are therefore determined to maintain it to the end." Then they boldly voted to delete from their constitution the clause which required amendments to be submitted to the faculty for approval.

Matters came to a head in December, 1835, when the faculty suspended from College ten members of the Literary Fraternity for electing a man to membership contrary to the faculty regulations. What ensued is revealed in the society's records.

December 7, 1835. When it was learned that ten members of the society had been suspended for voting to make William Towne a member, the society voted to ask the faculty under what laws or what rule of justice it had suspended only those members who actually voted for Mr. Towne, while other members who approved and abetted that action, but were absent when the vote was taken, were not punished. Voted that the President of the Society give to each suspended member a document testifying to his regular standing and his moral character. Voted also that we do not comply with the proposal of the faculty that we waive our "supposed" rights till Commencement.

February 27, 1836. Voted that a committee of five be chosen to obtain legal advice respecting the rights of the society in the election of members.

March 22, 1836. Voted that we suspend till Commencement the exercise of our right to elect members without permission of the faculty, provided the suspended members be restored to good standing in the College.

The Erosophian Adelphi had been more amenable to faculty suggestions, perhaps because they had just been founded and wanted to get a good start under official approval. Their constitution stated: "The faculty shall have the power
to examine the records of the society and prescribe such regulations and so far con­
trol and restrain the society as in their opinion the interests of the College may
require." Despite the lack of support from the Erosophians, the Literary Fra­
ternity won a decisive victory. Why the faculty retreated from their position we
do not know, but retreat they did. In the fall of 1836 each of the two societies
was permitted to accept as many freshmen as cared to join, and for many years
thereafter, in the record of each society, for the first meeting in the autumn, appears
the statement: "Invitation to become a member of the society was issued to each
member of the freshman class."

Just as the Philathean and Boardman societies had created libraries, so did
both the Literary Fraternity and Erosophian. Their important contribution to
library facilities at Colby will be discussed in a later chapter on the library. Here
it is appropriate to note the two societies' contrasting periods of independence and
of cooperation in respect to their libraries.

For some twenty years the Literary Fraternity insisted that "no person may
supply another person who is not a member with any book belonging to the fra­
taternity library, on penalty of a fine of twenty-five cents for each offense." The
Erosophian Adelphi had as a regulation governing its reading room: "The room
shall be open for the use of members only, daily except Sunday, from breakfast
time till study hours, from dinner time till afternoon study hours, and from supper
time till evening study hours." In 1849 the two societies voted to merge their
reading rooms, but not their libraries, and Room No. 1, North College, was set
aside as the Waterville College Reading Room.

Each society gave much attention to the furnishing and upkeep of its meeting
room. In the years before 1850 there was plenty of room in the three college
buildings, and the authorities allowed each group to have sole occupancy of a sep­
arate room. In 1832, the Literary Fraternity voted to purchase "oil and the neces­
sary oil vessels." Thirteen years later they decided to purchase lamps and use the
new "burning fluid." They decided to "buy settees and furnish green blinds for
the windows on the river side, paper the walls and whitewash the ceiling." On
another occasion they voted to put shades in the north windows, install a fire­
place and hearth, and "set up a box for anonymous contributions."

The Erosophians were equally zealous. As soon as they were assigned a
meeting room in 1835, they voted to buy a stove. In 1836 "Mr. Thomas was
elected lamp-lighter." The record of September 14, 1836, tells us: "Some re­
marks being made respecting the purchase of an oil can, Brother Everett said he
had several jugs and would present one to the society." When, upon their urgent
request, the Erosophians obtained the use of No. 20 South College for their library,
they voted to call it the Athenaeum of the Erosophian Adelphi, and they levied a
tax of two dollars on each member to furnish it properly.

In 1838 the Erosophians, dissatisfied with their meeting room, though proud
of their Athenaeum, passed the following vote:

Whereas the Erosophian Adelphi has suffered much inconvenience and
real injury for the want of a suitable room for its meetings, and whereas
in this respect we are not equally favored with the Literary Fraternity,
be it resolved that we will, if possible, obtain the room adjoining the
Athenaeum, now occupied by Mr. Caldwell, to be connected with the
Athenaeum as our meeting place.
A petition to the faculty resulted in consent to connect Room 18 with Room 20, as the society had requested, and the Erosophians promptly voted to tax each member one dollar to provide furnishings. They named the room Erosophian Hall. Fearing that the College authorities might later change their minds, the society voted, “to procure from the Faculty or Trustees a writing by virtue of which we can hold the room as our lawful property.” Placed in Erosophian Hall was the motto “Meus noster ager est.”

In 1845 the Erosophians thoroughly renovated their hall, making it resplendent with paint and paper and new furniture. On the evening of June 4 they held open house for students, faculty, and townspeople, after which they voted to thank their Building Committee for the excellent job, the ladies of the town who made the carpet, and Edward Mathews for a bookcase.

Spurred by the Erosophian success, the Literary Fraternity decided to make repairs on their own room. A committee reported that it would cost fifteen cents a yard to stucco the ceiling. They voted to do it, and also to plaster and stucco the walls. Not to be outdone by the Erosophians’ carpet, they voted to buy one at Pray’s Waterville store. A committee was instructed “to purchase lamps of the same kind or better than those of the other society.” The carpet from Pray proving unsatisfactory, two members were commissioned to go to Boston to get a better one. Determined to improve upon the Erosophians’ stove, they decided to install two stoves at a cost of fifteen dollars each. They even procured a chandelier with cut glass shades. Finally they voted “to purchase the best solar lamps for six dollars, to construct a bench for the president, to paint the woodwork as near as possible to the color of the other society’s room, and to put in a new door with a new lock.”

Into the meeting of both societies was introduced early what came to be called “the anonymous,” a semi-humorous contribution satirizing members of the society. It gradually came to be so abused that its satire extended to outright slander, and its scope took in members of the faculty as well as students. It was undoubtedly these anonymous papers that led later to the annual publication of a scurrilous sheet by each sophomore class, to be distributed at the Freshman Reading exhibition. At first called False Orders, this publication developed into the War Cry of the early twentieth century. Despite sporadic attempts to control the anonymous contribution in both Erosophian Adelphi and Literary Fraternity, members were obliged finally to admit that it could not permanently be restrained and that it had to go. Before the Civil War it had disappeared from the weekly meetings.

As was common to such societies in all the colleges, the feature of each meeting was the discussion or debate. Two or three members were assigned to each side of a given question. After their opening discussion, any member could speak. Then the question was put to a vote of the house. Instead of dealing with trivial or even with local matters, as has often been alleged, the debates in those early societies were of national and even international concern. Nor were they, as has been equally alleged, the kind of un debating question such as whether Washington was a greater man than Lincoln, or whether the pen is mightier than the sword.

In fact, the topics for debate in both societies provide us with a striking glimpse of vital issues of the time. Let us note some of the debated questions.

Would it be good policy for the New England states to be formed into a separate republic?
Are the Southern States justified in holding slaves? (1825) Decision was in the affirmative.

Was the United States justified in prosecuting the War of 1812?

Could the author of the Waverley novels have better employed his abilities?

Is dueling justifiable?

Has the Federalist or the Republican party rendered better service to the country?

Should immigration from foreign countries be encouraged?

Ought Universalists to be admitted as witnesses in courts of law?

Is the condition of free people of color in the United States preferable to that of those held in bondage? (1830) Decided affirmative, 7 to 5.

Was it good policy for the United States to commit the decision on the Northeast Boundary to the King of the Netherlands?

Ought Congress to interfere in the emancipation of the Southern slaves? (1831) Decided affirmative.

Is the Mexican War justifiable? (1847)

Are the principles of the present Democratic party consistent with those of Thomas Jefferson? (1850)

Are citizens of the United States bound to obey the Fugitive Slave Law? (1851)

Will the liquor law passed by the late Maine legislature be beneficial to the cause of temperance? (1851)

Is it in the interests of the State of Maine to establish an agricultural school? (1853)

Ought Mormonism to be suppressed by the government? (1857)

Has Congress power to prohibit slavery in the territories? (1859)

Would two independent governments formed from the United States be more favorable to the interests of the people than one government? (October, 1862)

Is the amendment to the Constitution to abolish slavery throughout the United States an infringement upon the rights guaranteed to the slave-holding states? (September, 1864. Decided in the affirmative by a vote of 9 to 8.)

Like the Boardman Society, both the Literary Fraternity and the Erosophian Adelphi held an anniversary observance. At first the Literary Fraternity selected two of its undergraduate members to serve as orator and poet, then extended the practice to include one or more of its honorary members, who were usually leading citizens of Waterville. After the organizing of the Erosophian Adelphi in 1835, the two societies tried to outstrip each other in the prominence of their orator and poet.

When competition with the Erosophians made it impossible for both to have use of the Baptist church on the same evening, instead of choosing different dates,
the two societies at first agreed that neither would use the church, but would hold their anniversaries in rooms at the College. In 1837 the Literary Fraternity voted to hold its anniversary “in the Declamation Room, that a band of musicians be invited to play, and that a committee be appointed to provide refreshments.”

Both societies aimed high in their annual selection of orators and poets. At one time or another each invited Henry W. Longfellow, John Greenleaf Whittier, Oliver Wendell Holmes, James T. Fields, James Russell Lowell, and other prominent authors to read an original poem for the anniversary, but all of those noted men respectfully declined. Likewise invitations for orator were unsuccessfully extended to Daniel Webster, Rufus Choate, Edward Everett, and Horace Mann.

In the ten years during which the two societies held separate anniversary exercises before their agreement to hold joint celebrations, beginning in 1844, the Erosophian Adelphi was strikingly more successful than was the Literary Fraternity in securing prominent speakers. In 1838 the Erosophians secured the Rev. Mr. Curtis as orator and Rev. M. A. DeWolf Howe as poet. They came near to losing Curtis, but were saved by the energetic action of their most persistent member, Benjamin F. Butler, who was then a senior in college. Only a few weeks before Commencement, Curtis reneged on his agreement to deliver the oration. Butler succeeded in pacifying the Massachusetts statesman, who came to Waterville and delivered the oration as advertised.

It was in 1841 that the Erosophians obtained the most prominent orator ever to speak before either society or at any of their joint observances. At the invitation of Erosophian Adelphi, Ralph Waldo Emerson came to Waterville. Interestingly enough the society’s first choice was not Emerson, but a leading Waterville citizen, Wyman B. S. Moor, who a few years later would be representing Maine in the United States Senate. When Moor did not accept, Emerson was the second choice. The Erosophian minutes for April 7, 1841, state: “Listened to the reading of a letter from Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson, indicating that he would accept the invitation to deliver an oration before us at our next anniversary. Voted to invite the Literary Fraternity to walk in procession with us at our annual celebration.”

On August 11, 1841, Emerson delivered in Waterville, for the first time, his oration, “The Method of Nature.” Two weeks earlier the Concord sage had written to Carlyle in England: “I am writing an oration to deliver to the boys in one of our little country colleges. You will say I do not deserve the aid of any muse. Oh, but if you knew how natural it is for me to run to these places! Besides, I am always lured on by the hope of saying something that will stick by the good boys.”

Edwin Percy Whipple, in his *Recollections of Eminent Men*, tells of his conversation with Emerson about that visit to Waterville.

On one occasion I remember saying to Emerson that of all his college addresses I thought “The Method of Nature,” delivered before the Society of the Adelphi, in Waterville College, Maine, was the best. He then gave me an amusing account of that lecture. A considerable portion of the journey from Boston to Waterville had to be made by stage. The vehicle arrived late in the evening, with the passenger travel-sore and weary. Almost all the inhabitants of Waterville had gone to bed. There seemed to be some doubt as to the house where Emerson was supposed to spend the night. “The stage driver,” said Emerson, “stopped at one door and rapped loudly. A window was opened and something in a nightgown asked what he wanted. The driver replied that he had a man who was to deliver the oration tomorrow, but the nightgown disappeared
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with the chilling remark that he was not to stay at that house. Then we went to another, and still another, rapped, saw similar nightgowns and heard similar voices at similar raised windows, and it was only after repeated disturbances of the peace that the right house was hit, where I found a hospitable reception. The next day I delivered my oration, which was heard with cold, silent, unresponsive attention. The address was really written in the heat and happiness of what I thought a real inspiration, but all the warmth was extinguished in that lake of iced water."

Emerson may have been more to blame than he was willing to admit for the cold reception. The oration was couched in such abstract terms, with so few concrete references, that it would have been tough meat for an audience far more sophisticated than those Waterville students and citizens. Dr. Holmes wrote, "There are many expressions in this address that must have sounded strangely and vaguely to his audience." Even Carlyle did not wholly approve: "I desiderate some concretion of these beautiful abstracts. It seems to me they will never be right otherwise." The earliest contemporary account of that oration is contained in the Zion's Advocate story of the Waterville College Commencement in 1841.

The oration, like all the productions of the author, was a perfect original—a genuine literary curiosity. The subject propounded for discussion was "The Method of Nature," which, in the mystic language of the school to which he belongs was defined to be ecstasy. What is meant by this, it might puzzle anyone to ascertain, who has not an uncommon share of the divine-human within him, and as I lay no claim to this distinction, I shall not attempt to develop its meaning. To say that there was not much thought, much poetry, and much shadowing forth of truth in a dim symbolical manner would be doing injustice to the performance, but why one should prefer to stop with the shades of truth, rather than seize at once upon truth itself, I cannot imagine.

Who wrote that criticism of Emerson's oration? It came from the pen of the editor of Zion's Advocate, Joseph Ricker, who had come to that editorship directly following his graduation from Waterville College in 1839. He had personally attended the 1841 Commencement and had heard Emerson speak from the pulpit of the Baptist Church. It should not be concluded that the 27 year old Ricker was either brash or ignorant when he criticized the 37 year old Emerson. Perhaps the editor's language was a bit caustic, but much of Emerson's lecture had indeed been strange and vague.

Another person who heard the oration was John B. Foster, then a sophomore in the College, who years later told Arthur Roberts that, at the time he had little comprehension of what Emerson was talking about, but that he did remember two things: the orator's nose and the fact that every time he turned over a page of his manuscript he seemed to begin to treat an entirely new subject.

Emerson came again to the College for a similar occasion in 1863. By that time the two societies were observing their anniversaries jointly, one selecting the orator, the other the poet. It was again the Erosophian Adelphi who secured Emerson, whose fame had increased considerably since 1841. This time his subject was "The Man of Letters." It was much more specific and concrete than had been "The Method of Nature," and it showed greater maturity both in thought
and expression. But it seems that, not even in the midst of the Civil War, was a Waterville audience ready for the deep thinking of the great man from Concord.

In 1863 Emerson spoke in Waterville on the same month and day as in 1841 — August 11. The chosen poet on the same program was Samuel Francis Smith, author of “America,” who had been pastor of the Baptist Church and Professor of Modern Languages at the College from 1834 to 1841. The local newspaper, the Waterville Mail, made a comparison between the oration and the poem that was hardly complimentary to Emerson.

Mr. Emerson’s epigrammatic style of writing is no more peculiar than his oratory; and though he is a forcful speaker, one is not surprised to find his delivery far from smooth and graceful. He stands before you, a figure of sharp angles, with a marked face and head, indicative of character. Possessed by great thoughts that struggle for utterance, his sentences are jerked forth abruptly. He fires no blank cartridges; he sends up no blazing rockets; but his solid shot, though of tough and well compacted metal, are hurled forth straight to the mark, and you feel that all that is not founded in eternal truth must crumble before the powerful fire.

Dr. Smith’s poem had one great merit — brevity; and it might be said, by no means disparagingly, that it was not too good for the occasion. The versification was smooth and easy, the sentiment pure and elevated, and it enforced a good lesson labor and wait. The punning allusions to General Benjamin Butler were received with especial favor. While far from being a great poem, this much can be said: Dr. Smith did what Emerson failed to do; he stilled the audience.4

Although, after 1840, each society usually attended the other’s anniversary in a body, nothing came of repeated attempts for a joint celebration until 1844. Then the Literary Fraternity voted to concur with Erosophian Adelphi in a joint celebration provided “we can have Mr. Bronson for orator.” The Erosophians agreed. When the date arrived, the order of march caused such dispute as nearly to wreck the enterprise. The previous agreement to have “the two societies march promiscuously by classes” was invalidated, and after a long wrangle it was decided that “the society having the marshal shall march in front.” It had already been decided that the Literary Fraternity should name the orator, and Erosophian Adelphi the poet. Choice of marshal was decided by lot and was won by the Erosophians. In 1845 the two societies voted to make permanent the practice of holding a joint anniversary. In that year Erosophian chose the orator, and LF had the poet and marshal. That plan of alternation continued for the subsequent thirty years of the anniversaries. In 1848, the Erosophian secretary informed the orator, Rev. J. J. Caruthers of Portland, that the orator and poet usually spoke from the pulpit unless they preferred the platform.5

Sometimes the anniversary itself nearly came to grief because of difficulty in securing the guest speakers. In 1854 the Erosophians voted that if Mr. Stone should refuse the invitation to be orator, the society would insist upon the selection of Mr. Baker, although they admitted it was LF’s turn to choose. The Erosophians notified LF that, if the orator was not to be either Mr. Stone or Mr. Baker, there would be no joint celebration. On the whole, however, the joint anniversaries passed off very well, the common reading room was a success, and the occasional tiffs between the two societies created no permanent grudges.
As early as 1838, both societies had contributed toward music for Commencement. That music was furnished by no orchestral trio, but by a brass band. In 1852 the societies became solely responsible for the Commencement band, and sought to pay a major part of the expense by selling tickets to a band concert to be given on the evening following the graduation exercises. Here are the Erosophians votes concerning that event.

June 2, 1852 — Voted to employ Bond's Band of Boston for Commencement, at a cost of $200. Appointed a committee to confer with one from the Literary Fraternity concerning this band. Voted that the committee, together with one from the Literary Fraternity, arrange all matters in relation to the concert.

June 14 — Voted that, for the coming concert by Bond's Band, a single ticket be given to each member of the two societies, and that arrangements be made to sell the tickets to pay expenses of the band, the net proceeds to be divided one-half to each society.

As late as 1867, when three Greek letter fraternities had already been established at Colby, the two older societies were still so strong that in that year the Erosophians voted "to concur with the Literary Fraternity in dividing all commencement expenses between the two societies in proportion to membership, and to invite non-members of the societies to assist in paying the expenses of Commencement."

When the end came to both societies in the 1870's, it was Erosophian Adelphi that first became inactive. Its records show no formal dissolution, but its last recorded meeting was held on November 16, 1875. Concerning the Literary Fraternity, however, the record is complete. The society began hopefully the college year of 1878-79 by inviting all freshmen to become members. On September 17, 1878, decision was reached "to hold a public meeting three weeks from tonight." On the very next day, September 18, the Literary Fraternity passed its final, funeral vote:

Whereas the meetings of the Literary Fraternity have not been well sustained for a number of years, and a large number of its members manifest little interest in its welfare, Resolved, that the property of the Literary Fraternity, including the library, be given into the hands of the College, and that the Literary Fraternity is hereby dissolved sine die.

Who were some men of later prominence who led the activities of the two societies through the half century of their existence? Besides Benjamin F. Butler, who was their spark plug in 1836-38, the Erosophian presidents included Charles E. Hamlin, 1847, later Colby's noted Professor of Natural History; William S. Heath, 1855, a Civil War casualty for whom the Waterville post of the G.A.R. was named; Josiah Drummond, 1846, famous Maine attorney; Leonard Swett, 1846, friend of Abraham Lincoln and player of a prominent part in the Republican convention at Baltimore in 1864; Harris Plaisted, 1853, Governor of Maine; Edward W. Hall, 1862, Colby's distinguished librarian; William Penn Whitehouse, 1863, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court; and Julian D. Taylor, 1868, Colby's beloved Professor of Latin.
The Literary Fraternity boasted such names as two prominent citizens of Waterville, Isaac Redington, 1827, and Moses Appleton, 1830. It included also Harrington Putnam, 1870, New York judge; Moses Ricker, 1869, for whom Ricker Classical Institute at Houlton was named; Nathaniel Butler, Jr., 1873, who became one of Colby's best known presidents; Leslie C. Cornish, 1875, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court; and Charles F. Johnson, 1878, United States Senator from Maine.

During those critical years in Colby history, from 1824 to 1878, the Literary Fraternity and the Erosophian Adelphi were academic assets rather than social liabilities. More than any other influence, they mitigated the dreary routine of memorite classroom recitation. Their discussions were on serious subjects of national significance, and their libraries and reading rooms provided the students with books and periodicals not found on the sermon-filled shelves of the college library. During that half-century Colby was more truly an institution of higher education because of the existence of its two student societies.
In summary, the Library has made significant progress in its goals through the hard work of its patrons.

The Library's Board of Directors includes a number of prominent local citizens, including

- [Name 1], a local business leader.
- [Name 2], a community activist.
- [Name 3], a local artist.
- [Name 4], a retired government official.
- [Name 5], a local educator.

These individuals work tirelessly to ensure the Library remains a valuable resource for the community.

In conclusion, the Library remains committed to providing

- [Library service 1], which has been greatly expanded.
- [Library service 2], which has been introduced recently.
- [Library service 3], which continues to evolve.

The Library looks forward to continued growth and improvement in the years ahead.
Fraternities and Sororities

The secret Greek letter fraternity got its start in America with the formation of Phi Beta Kappa in 1776, but that society long since abandoned its secret and its social features to become strictly an honorary scholastic society, taking into membership only the highest ranking students in colleges and universities where the society had chartered chapters. The beginning of the social fraternities on college campuses therefore dates from 1821, with the organization of Chi Delta Theta, followed in 1824 by Chi Phi and in 1825 by Kappa Alpha. Tenth in order of its foundation among American college fraternities was Delta Kappa Epsilon, founded at Yale in 1844. Only a year later that fraternity organized the first fraternity chapter at Colby.

During the winter vacation in 1844-45, Walter Hatch, a Colby student in the class of 1847, was approached by a member of the recently formed DKE chapter at Bowdoin with reference to forming a chapter at Colby. When classes were resumed in Waterville, Hatch conferred with several friends. The group selected a number of names and approached each in the utmost secrecy. Considerable correspondence with the Bowdoin chapter ensued. Negotiations were conducted through Josiah Drummond, 1846, who, though not yet graduated, was on leave to teach the term at China Academy. Drummond made weekly trips to Waterville and almost as frequent trips to Brunswick. The result was the forwarding of a petition to the parent chapter of DKE at Yale. The petitioners were two members of the Class of 1846, Drummond and George Stanley; four of 1847, Walter Hatch, Henry Ware, Gilbert Palmer, and David True; and two of 1848, Ephraim Young and Horatio Butterfield.

The charter was immediately granted on June 25, 1845, but it was not until a year later, on June 25, 1846, that the chapter was formally organized, when W. F. Jackson and John H. Fogg of the Bowdoin chapter initiated nine members into the Xi chapter of DKE at Waterville College. The nature of the initiation ceremony may be inferred from the fact that it was performed in a college dormitory without the other students having any inkling of its occurrence.

At first the Deke meetings were held alternately in Rooms 1 and 27 North College, but in 1849 the fraternity opened quarters in the Boutelle Block on Main Street. In 1876 they moved to more spacious quarters in the Ticonic Block. At last, in 1896, they became the first Colby fraternity to own their own home. On the east side of College Avenue, across from the head of Getchell Street was the large, relatively new house owned by Daniel Wing, proprietor of the Waterville Mail. Wing offered the house for sale, and A. F. Drummond and Harvey D.
Eaton, on behalf of the DKE House Association, bought the building for the fraternity at a cost of $6000. Drummond and Eaton held the deed for 42 years until 1938, when the DKE House Association was dissolved and the DKE Corporation took its place. A successful campaign resulted in paying off the mortgage of $4000 which had been placed in 1896. In 1945, when the entire college was eager to move to Mayflower Hill, the DKE House on College Avenue was sold to the American Legion.

The Colby chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon celebrated its hundredth anniversary in 1946, with Supreme Court Justice Charles P. Barnes, 1892, presiding, and the historical address by Harvey D. Eaton, 1887.

Just as a rival literary society in the form of Erosophian Adelphi had soon sprung up to compete with the Literary Fraternity in the 1830's, so were students in the 1840's not content to leave DKE without competition. In 1849 a small club was organized under the name of Alpha Omega, and its leader, Thomas Garnsey, soon made contact with several national fraternities. Although a number of national groups were interested, the boys of Alpha Omega chose to present their petition to Zeta Psi. On November 19, 1850, two members of the Zeta Psi Chapter at Williams came to Waterville and initiated fourteen students of Waterville College into Chi chapter of Zeta Psi.

Colby Zetes later installed chapters at Dartmouth, Union, Michigan, and Bowdoin. The grand chapter of the fraternity once convened in Waterville. From the foundation of the Rhodes Scholarship until 1960 Colby had only four Rhodes scholars, and three of them were Zetes: Abbott E. Smith, 1926; John G. Rideout, 1936; and William C. Carter, 1938. Another member of the chapter was Colby's centennial historian, Edwin C. Whittemore, 1879.

The Zetes first met in the Marston Block on Main Street, then moved to the Phoenix Block near the corner of Main and Temple Streets. A third move took them to the Meader Block, whence they went to the Barelle Building near Castonguay Square, and finally to the Burleigh Block at Temple and Main Streets, before their location on the old campus, under the plan adopted in 1906. In their home in South College, for many years their beloved house mother was "Ma" Welch.

Secret societies, even the Masons, did not meet with universal approval in the 1840's and 1850's. The wide-spread anti-masonic movement had won many converts and was playing a part in national politics. It was inevitable, therefore, that secret college fraternities should fall under vigorous attack. In 1851 Daniel Wilcox, a student at Amherst, formed a non-secret group there, encouraged the organization of a similar group at Williams, and united the two groups into the Antisecret Confederation. "Those men at Amherst and Williams had lately experienced harsh treatment at the hands of the secret societies, the members of which had become openly hostile to all non-fraternity men."

In July, 1852, upon urging from Wilcox, a group of students at Waterville College formed an antisecond society called the Equitable Fraternity, and they were at once admitted by Amherst and Williams into the confederation. When the confederation became the national fraternity of Delta Upsilon it for a long time retained its non-secret character, but by 1910, although officially still non-secret, it had come to be considered as one of the usual Greek letter fraternities.

Delta Upsilon met at first in one of the college rooms, but later moved to a hall on Main Street. Between 1855 and 1862 the chapter initiated 81 members. In 1861 it was host to the DU General Convention. The Civil War, creating
difficulties for all Colby fraternities, was especially hard on Delta Upsilon. In 1864 the fraternity was forced to disband, and for the following 14 years it was inactive. The good feeling that existed among rival fraternities at Colby is shown by the fact that, when the DU chapter was revived in 1878, it was the work of a former Deke. “Through the efforts of James Jenkins, 1879, a former member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, and with the encouragement of the Colby chapter of DKE, a group of Colby students applied for restoration of the Colby chapter of Delta Upsilon, and in the autumn of 1878 the application was granted.”

One of DU's best known alumni was the Maine poet and novelist, Holman Francis Day, 1887. When the fraternity celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1902, a prominent participator was the President of the College, Charles Lincoln White, who was a member of the Brown chapter of Delta Upsilon. For many years, during DU's occupancy of the south end of North College, their devoted house mother was Amelia Osborne, daughter of Sam Osborne, the colored janitor of the College from 1867 to 1903.

After the organization of DU, three fraternities held sway on the Colby campus for 32 years. In fact, not until the 1880's did enrollment justify the coming of a fourth fraternity. Thus, for a third of a century, DKE, Zeta Psi, and DU fought for pledges from each freshman class. In 1882 a group of Colby students, either rejected by or unwilling to join one of the three fraternities, established a local society called Logania and rented a hall on Main Street. In February, 1884, that society’s corresponding secretary Edward Fuller wrote to the national office of Phi Delta Theta, asking information concerning proper steps to obtain a charter from that fraternity. He told the Phi Delt office that, after a study of the publication *American College Fraternities*, his group had decided to apply to Phi Delta Theta. On March 15 formal application was made by twelve petitioners headed by Elwood Dudley, 1884. One of the twelve was Woodman Bradbury, 1887, who later became the distinguished professor of homiletics at Newton Theological Institution and was for many years a Colby trustee. The charter was granted on March 22, 1884, and the initiation of Colby men into Phi Delta Theta, together with the installation of the Colby chapter, took place in the following October. The ceremonies were followed by a banquet at the Williams House, a Waterville hostelry that had stood on Main Street, opposite the foot of Silver Street, since early in the nineteenth century.

During its first twenty years membership in the Colby chapter of Phi Delta Theta never exceeded twenty-five. In 1901 it was reduced to fifteen members, but when it began its third decade in 1905, it numbered thirty-five and thereafter remained one of Colby's strongest chapters. In 1905 it had the distinction of having Colby's first Rhodes scholar, Harold W. Soule, as well as the runner-up for that appointment, Arthur L. Field.

When three of the fraternities were allowed to occupy exclusive quarters in the “old bricks” in 1907, Phi Delta Theta was not among them, because that fraternity had been given permission to occupy a building known as Hersey House, which had been moved from a former location to the southwest end of the athletic field, near the old wooden grandstand. In 1908 the Phi Delts made a deal with the College to occupy Ladies' Hall, the building at 31 College Avenue, recently vacated by the girls because of the opening of Foss Hall. So it was in the fall of 1908 that two new occupants took residence in the adjoining houses at 31 and 33 College Avenue. President Roberts, himself a Phi Delt, went into the President's House at Number 33, and his old fraternity moved into Number 31. At times
those fraternity brothers of his made the nights noisy for the new President, but they remained good neighbors until Roberts' untimely death in 1927. In that old building, formerly the only dormitory for Colby girls, Phi Delta Theta had its home until World War II and the subsequent removal to Mayflower Hill.

In 1891 a group of students felt the time had come for a fifth fraternity. They met in a fourth floor room in the south end of South College on December 2, for the purpose of "mutual support and benefit, and of ultimately uniting with some national Greek letter fraternity." The first president of the local group, which was called Beta Upsilon, was Wellington Hodgkins, 1893, and the secretary was Arthur H. Berry, 1894. Their first approach for national affiliation was to Theta Delta Chi, but nothing came of the negotiations. In June, 1892, they turned to Alpha Tau Omega. A charter was granted and on June 25, 1892, the Gamma Alpha chapter of ATO was installed at Colby by a delegation from the chapter at the University of Maine, and twelve Colby men were initiated into ATO. The subsequent strength of ATO, in its early and highly competitive years, was due in no small measure to the proximity of several early alumni: Dr. Frank Tozier at Fairfield, Dr. Robert Mahlman at Madison, and George Hoxie at the Waterville post office, all members of the Class of 1894.

The new fraternity at once rented a room in a downtown block—a tiny room only twelve feet square with a small closet—at a cost of five dollars a month. It held on to those meager quarters until it took occupancy of the north end of South College in 1907.

Like other Colby fraternities, ATO had its times of supremacy and its times of depression. One of its alumni used to say that every Colby fraternity follows a kind of sine curve, and if it is on the crest it had better prepare for the day when it will be in the trough. In 1900 such disharmony prevailed in the ATO chapter that not a single member of the Class of 1904 was initiated. Matters became so bad that national officers came on the scene. The fraternity was locked out of its hall for failure to pay the rent, and had to hold its few meetings in dormitory rooms. By the fall of 1901 the chapter was in grave danger of losing its charter. Somehow a small group held on until the fall of 1902, when three men, Fenwicke Holmes, Frank Wood, and Millard Fitzgerald pledged a good delegation of freshmen and the chapter was saved.

ATO was long represented on the faculty and administrative staff of the College. At one time the Chairman of the Trustees, the Vice-President, the Dean of the Faculty, the Dean of Men, and the Alumni Secretary were all ATO's. In all fairness it should be added that every Colby fraternity follows a kind of sine curve, and if it is on the crest it had better prepare for the day when it will be in the trough. In 1900 such disharmony prevailed in the ATO chapter that not a single member of the Class of 1904 was initiated. Matters became so bad that national officers came on the scene. The fraternity was locked out of its hall for failure to pay the rent, and had to hold its few meetings in dormitory rooms. By the fall of 1901 the chapter was in grave danger of losing its charter. Somehow a small group held on until the fall of 1902, when three men, Fenwicke Holmes, Frank Wood, and Millard Fitzgerald pledged a good delegation of freshmen and the chapter was saved.

ATO was long represented on the faculty and administrative staff of the College. At one time the Chairman of the Trustees, the Vice-President, the Dean of the Faculty, the Dean of Men, and the Alumni Secretary were all ATO's. In all fairness it should be added that such a situation meant no favors for ATO. Actually it was a time when the chapter had less strength than it had shown many years earlier, when there was one lone ATO on the staff. Unlike DKE, ATO never furnished a president for the College; unlike Zeta Psi, it never gave a secretary to the Board; unlike DU, it never had a Major General of the U. S. Army; and unlike both Zeta Psi and Phi Delta Theta, it never had a Rhodes scholar.

In 1912 all but a handful of Colby male students belonged to one or another of the five fraternities. That handful remained unorganized and without either privileges or influence. So there was founded the Colby Commons Club, to assure to the independents a voice in campus affairs. It flourished for five years, welcoming especially into membership men of those races rejected by the restrictive constitutions of most of the national fraternities. In this historian's own class was a colored man, Aaron MacGhee, who became a prominent Harlem surgeon, but in his student days at Colby only the Commons Club would accept
him into membership, and he became one of its most active and most influential members.

All too often it has been the fate of an organization of independents on a college campus to go the way of the Greek letter fraternities, first to become a local, then affiliate with a national body. That is what happened to the Commons Club, and though the change strengthened the local group, it damaged the cause of the independents. In 1917 the Commons Club became a local fraternity called Omicron Theta, with the avowed object of petitioning some national fraternity for a charter. It became a chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha in 1918.

It was LCA that suffered the greatest affliction ever to hit a Colby fraternity. When fire swept through their quarters in the north end of North College on a December night in 1922, five members of the fraternity lost their lives. The full story of that tragedy has been told in Chapter XXXII.

Rapidly Lambda Chi Alpha took the lead in scholarship. In 1932 it won permanent possession of the Druid Cup for several years of highest scholastic standing among Colby fraternities. But like every other fraternity, LCA had to encounter troughs as well as crests of the sine curve, and soon it had to surrender scholastic laurels to an even newer group.

Lambda Chi Alpha would be distinguished in Colby history if it had done nothing else than to give “Pop” Newman to Colby. Herbert L. Newman, 1918, literally gave his life for the College. As head of its religious activities for nearly a quarter of a century, he was a daily example of the Man of Nazareth, living his life constantly for the benefit of others. Many Colby graduates, scattered over the continents of the earth, owe their allegiance to high ideals and their achievement of worthy aims to “Pop” Newman.

In 1924 a group of students led by Herbert F. Colby, 1925, organized a local fraternity called the Lancers Club. It later secured a charter from Theta Kappa Nu, became prosperous, especially under the leadership of Harry B. Thomas, 1926, rented the luxurious property known as the Hussey estate, next door to the Waterville Central Fire Station. A few years later the national fraternity of Theta Kappa Nu merged with Lambda Chi Alpha, and every Colby TKN alumnus then had the privilege of the new affiliation, and Lambda Chi Alpha profited by the strength of both groups.

In 1918, the year in which the old Commons Club had become Lambda Chi Alpha, a new local was formed, called the Alpha Fraternity. Not until 1926 did it “go national,” and then it affiliated with a group that had been organized at nearby Middlebury College only twenty years earlier. For several years after its national affiliation, Kappa Delta Rho occupied quarters in Roberts Hall; then with the help of its faculty sponsor, Professor Thomas Ashcraft, a man of successful experience in real estate, it purchased the Davis mansion near the junction of Elm and Silver streets. The house had been one of the most magnificent residences in Waterville and gave the KDR by far the most elegant fraternity home among all the Colby chapters. Despite its distance, a full mile from the campus, KDR had no difficulty securing its pick of pledges, and the results soon became apparent. Like LCA before it, KDR was determined to secure a reputation for scholarship. It wrenched the new Druid Cup from its newest rival and retained it for nineteen consecutive semesters. It held the editorship of the Echo for three consecutive years.
Inevitably KDR, like all the others, followed the sine curve. It fell upon poorer days and eventually had to give up its fine house. When Colby men moved to the Hill, KDR barely survived, but in a few years had so renewed its strength that it held its own in all interfraternity activities and was looking confidently toward the day when it too would have its own house among those erected on Mayflower Hill.

The most bitter and prolonged controversy ever to invade fraternity life at Colby concerned official recognition of what is now one of the strongest of the houses, Tau Delta Phi. Since the 1880's Colby had welcomed Jewish students without discrimination. Many of those students had been initiated into the existing fraternities, despite actual or assumed discriminatory clauses in their national constitutions. For instance, several of the most active and most loyal of the ATO alumni have been members of the Jewish faith.

At the close of World War I a powerful group of the oldest American fraternities tightened the discriminatory clauses in their constitutions and began a systematic campaign to enforce those clauses upon their chapters. Even fraternities that had no such clauses became reluctant to accept Jewish members. Meanwhile the number of Jewish boys in each Colby freshman class increased. The College steadfastly refused to discriminate against them by a quota system.

In the autumn of 1918, even before discrimination had become obvious in fraternity pledging at Colby, seven Jewish boys of good scholarship and fine character decided the time had come to organize a group of their own. Led by Julius Sussman, 1919, they organized informally, then sought permission to form a local fraternity. President Roberts granted the request, and in June, 1919, the Trustees voted permission for the formation of a new local fraternity. The group took the name of Gamma Phi Epsilon.

Permission from college authorities was one thing; recognition by the existing fraternities was something else. Without such recognition Gamma Phi Epsilon could not secure membership in the so-called honorary societies, competition for interfraternity prizes, membership on the student council, or participation in the interfraternity social calendar. In the opinion of undergraduates of every twentieth century generation, not to be on a par with other groups in respect to holding dances is a crushing blow.

In 1921 the faculty was drawn into the controversy, and appointed a committee to investigate the proposed organization of a Jewish society or club at Colby. They conferred with two students, LeWinter and Feldman, who asked for faculty recognition and for permission to affiliate with the national fraternity, Pi Epsilon Phi. The committee told the representatives of Gamma Phi Epsilon that recognition of a new fraternity had been clearly left to the existing fraternities, and that such had been the case when the Commons Club became Lambda Chi Alpha. Hence the committee advised the members of Gamma Phi Epsilon to petition the Student Council for recognition, and in the meantime to cease their efforts toward admission into a national fraternity. The representatives of Gamma Phi Epsilon agreed that this was the proper method and promised to comply with it. Honorably and faithfully they adhered to that promise.

The committee found the members of the Student Council unanimous in opposing recognition of a Jewish fraternity and insistent that Colby already had a sufficient number of fraternities. The faculty committee then made a suggestion to the council that was to have great importance for the future development of Gamma Phi Epsilon. The committee proposed the conditional acceptance of
Gamma Phi Epsilon into college activities, the condition being that it should be a fraternity "not founded upon religious or racial lines." The proof of its freedom from those features was to be the membership of a certain percentage of non-Jewish men. The Student Council rejected the faculty proposal, but the committee suggestion was not forgotten, and the time eventually came when the Colby chapter of Tau Delta Phi, national successor to Gamma Phi Epsilon, regularly numbered men of different races and faiths. In fact, of all Colby fraternities, Tau Delta Phi was the most liberal in its acceptance of Negroes and Orientals, as well as of Christian whites.

The long struggle of Gamma Phi Epsilon for an equal place among the other fraternities was aggravated by the unrealistic view of the faculty and administration. In those official circles there prevailed the sincere and logical view that no segregated group should be permitted such permanent organization as would ensue with the chapter of a distinctly Jewish national fraternity. As one faculty member put it, "We don't want a Knights of Columbus fraternity nor a Baptist fraternity, a Negro fraternity nor a Chinese fraternity; not even a fraternity made up of Sons of the American Revolution." Many faculty members insisted it should be the duty of every Colby fraternity to accept members on individual merit, regardless of race or religion.

The idea was noble; its realization was out of the question at that time. Even had every Colby fraternity been willing to be so liberal, several of them would have lost their national charters by such action, and it would be many years before the great anti-discrimination movement would so sweep American campuses that chapters would give up their charters rather than conform to discriminating constitutions. If the existing Colby fraternities would not accept Jewish members, no matter how high the individual merits of those boys, had not the Jewish boys a right to form their own fraternity? The question was as simple as that. If Jewish students were acceptable into the College, had not the College an official obligation to see that they received fair treatment outside, as well as inside the classroom? That second question was by no means simple, for it encountered a long tradition of student autonomy in the social recognition of student organizations.

On February 14, 1924, the Waterville Sentinel stated that Gamma Phi Epsilon had been granted formal recognition by the Colby faculty. The faculty at once received a vigorous protest from the Student Council. The faculty replied that the Sentinel was in error and that the matter stood just as it had stood for more than a year; namely, that while the faculty considered Gamma Phi Epsilon worthy to enjoy the same privileges as the other fraternities, it did not lie in the power of the faculty to grant campus recognition.

Gamma Phi Epsilon petitioned the Student Council for recognition year after year. It came within one vote of success in 1931, but lacked the necessary three-fourths. At last recognition was secured on November 21, 1932, when Carroll Pooler, 1933, Secretary of the Student Council, notified the faculty that "Gamma Phi Epsilon, by vote of the requisite three-fourths of the fraternities, is now entitled to all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the eight national chapters at Colby College, including the right to affiliate with a national fraternity." On December 14 the faculty voted that "Gamma Phi Epsilon is now granted formal recognition and the right to petition for a charter from an approved national fraternity."

Meanwhile the national Jewish fraternity Tau Delta Phi had taken notice of the local group at Colby. That fraternity presented a superior appeal to the college offices as well as to the boys of Gamma Phi Epsilon, because Tau Delta Phi
had no discrimination against non-Jewish members. In fact it made it a policy to encourage its chapters to accept persons of all races and creeds solely on individual merit. The Dean of Men, who since the creation of that office in 1929 had been a vigorous supporter of the group’s claim to recognition, urged affiliation with Tau Delta Phi. That affiliation was accomplished by the installation of the Colby chapter on February 11, 1933. From that day the fraternity held equal status with the others. It frequently captured the scholarship cup, secured its share of editorship and other offices, and held its own in athletics. It made a point of special pride to show no discrimination because of race, color, or religion.

**Fraternities on Mayflower Hill**

When, in the 1930's, the time had come to consider the status of fraternities on the new campus, a number of questions confronted the authorities. Should there be fraternities at all on Mayflower Hill? If so, how should they be housed? If in chapter houses, should those houses be on college or privately owned land? Should the college assist in financing fraternity houses?

The whole matter of the housing of male students on the new site was thoroughly studied for more than a year by a committee of twenty-one persons, headed by Trustee Chairman George Otis Smith. On that committee were the Dean of Men, the College Treasurer, representatives of the faculty and of the Alumni Association, two trustees besides Dr. Smith, and a representative of each Colby fraternity.

From the time of its first meeting, the committee found several of its members opposed to the continuance of fraternities on Mayflower Hill. As the investigation continued and it became known that three of the fraternities already had substantial funds laid aside toward eventual construction of their own chapter houses, while another already owned valuable property on College Avenue, a large majority of the committee became persuaded that Colby should continue the fraternity system. The final vote was 19 to 2.

The committee was unanimous in opposition to permanent, or even long-range fraternity housing in the dormitories, and recommended that quarters in the new dormitories on the Hill should be assigned only to such fraternity groups as could give assurance of erecting their own house within a reasonable period, preferably within five years. The committee further recommended that fraternities able and willing to build houses should be required to locate them on college property, and because that would legally give the College ownership of the buildings, it was proposed that a careful agreement, drawn up between the College and the fraternity corporation should protect the latter in permanent occupancy. Another important recommendation was that a house mother should be required in each fraternity house, and that construction plans should include a private suite for her residence.

The Trustees accepted completely the recommendations of the Committee of Twenty-One, and voted that the College would enter into agreement with each individual fraternity to loan one-half the cost of the house, provided the whole cost did not exceed $45,000. The terms would provide amortization at 4½ per cent over a period of thirty years. The College would agree that, as long as the fraternity desired to do so and continued to maintain standards required by its national office and by the College, and met its financial obligations, it should be permitted the right of sole occupancy of the house. Financing, both of amortiza-
tion of the loan and of current operations, would be handled through the office of
the College Treasurer. Careful estimates would be made annually, in advance,
covering costs of service, insurance, water, heat, lights and house mother. That
total, added to the annual amortization charge, would show the amount for which
the fraternity must be responsible to the College during the ensuing year. The
annual charge would be collected by a uniform fee, decided by the fraternity, to
be levied upon each of its members not living in the house but enjoying its social
privileges, and the remainder of the charge could be divided among the mem­
bers living in the house. Each house was to provide rooms for thirty or more
members, and if any house failed to fill its rooms in any particular year, the Col­
lege reserved the right to place non-members in those rooms. As earnest of its
conviction that house mothers were a necessity, the College agreed to provide
meals at Roberts Union for those women. It was estimated that the entire plan
would cost each fraternity about $3800 a year, $1344 of which would go toward
amortizing the loan.

In the midst of the great depression of the 1930's it seemed quite possible
that a fraternity house could be built for $45,000, but not until the close of World
War II could any of the Colby fraternities erect a house, and by that time building
costs had become so inflated that no house could go up for less than $100,000,
and several cost considerably more. A revision of the plan therefore became nec­
essary. The College still agreed to loan half the cost, but the amortization period
had to be extended to forty years, and even then the annual charge was nearly
double what had been originally contemplated.

The first houses to go up were those of Delta Kappa Epsilon and Alpha Tau
Omega. Because both had substantial funds or already owned saleable real estate,
they were able soon to complete alumni campaigns for their half of the needed
funds. Zeta Psi also had a sizeable “nest egg” and was soon able to start building.
Before 1955 six fraternity houses, built half by alumni subscriptions and half by
college loan, were occupied in the assigned space between Miller Library and
Roberts Union by DKE, Zeta Psi, DU, Phi Delta Theta, ATO, and Tau Delta Phi.
To show that they meant business, Lambda Chi Alpha put in a foundation on their
selected site, and a few years later were able to complete and occupy their house.

Of the eight fraternities that had moved to the Hill when all activity ceased
on the old campus, only Kappa Delta Rho remained without its own house in 1960,
and it had made a good start on its fund campaign.

Increased numbers of students on the new campus justified the formation of
additional fraternities. Two local groups were organized: Sigma Theta Psi in
1955 and Beta Chi in 1957. The latter soon made national affiliation with Alpha Delta Phi.

Fraternity visitors from other colleges express surprise that the Colby chapter
houses do not have dining rooms. That deliberate omission was the unanimous
recommendation of the Committee of Twenty-One. It stemmed from the unsavory
reputation of the fraternity “eating clubs” on the old campus. Both Dekes and
Phi Delts operated such clubs in their houses, because only they had kitchen
facilities until KDR occupied the Davis house; but other fraternities made deals
with persons in town to supply diners for meals to be provided by some woman
who was known to be an excellent cook. Whenever the deal was on a definite
pay-by-week basis, individually to the boarding-house keeper, the operation went
rather well; but when the fraternity took charge, through an appointed steward, of
buying the supplies and paying the cooks, there was frequent trouble. A steward
who was both a good buyer and a ruthless collector could run a successful club, but one who was too easy a mark for suppliers or not tough enough on his fraternity brothers who owed board bills would inevitably plunge the club into debt. It was no fun for an innocent alumnus, a couple of years after graduation, to be greeted at the railroad station, on his return for Commencement, by a deputy sheriff with a warrant to round up all persons who were members of some eating club that had left behind them an irate creditor. Determined that such tactics should end forever, the College decided that there should be no dining rooms in the fraternity houses on Mayflower Hill.

An important advance in fraternity affairs was made in 1938 with the formation of the Interfraternity Council. Gradually the Student Council of the Men's Division had become so absorbed in fraternity matters that they came to neglect larger issues concerning all the male students. Furthermore, since the Council was composed largely of representatives of the fraternities it was open to the charge of continually playing fraternity politics. In 1938, at the persistent urging of the Dean of Men, the men students voted to set up two bodies: a student council elected by proportional ballot and representing all the men students, and an interfraternity council consisting of a representative from each active fraternity chapter, the faculty adviser of each chapter, and the Dean of Men. The faculty advisers and the Dean had no vote, but sat only in advisory capacity. The Dean of Men was for several years the permanent chairman, but after 1946 the chairmanship rotated among the undergraduate representatives in order of the fraternity foundings.

The Interfraternity Council became exceedingly influential. It settled amicably the assignment of dance dates, a matter that had caused long wrangles and bitter feelings for many years. It worked out a plan of delayed pledging and second semester initiation, and when that plan did not work well it had the courage to scrap it and permit earlier pledging. It secured the adoption of a requirement for a fixed scholastic average before a man could be initiated. It tackled the pernicious practice of "Hell Week," the physical hazing of initiates, and went far toward persuading all the fraternities to substitute "Help Week," during which the pledges were assigned to do work for churches, societies, and hospitals in Waterville. Not since the formation of the Interfraternity Council in 1938 has Colby been troubled by the "bad blood" that so often characterized relationship among the fraternities in previous years.

On every college campus where fraternities exist one hears the repeated cry of "fraternity politics." In the 1910's at Colby one used often to hear about "fraternity combines" and how some worthy man was kept out of student office because two or more fraternities "ganged up" against him. Doubtless there was some truth in those statements, but not so much as has been alleged. As anyone knows, it is not easy to assure that any group will vote as a bloc if the voting is protected by secret ballot. Fraternity politicians might make a deal, but they could never be sure that the voting membership would sustain it.

It is historically interesting that it was a later President of Colby, Franklin W. Johnson, who as editor of the Echo in his senior year as a Colby student, attacked boldly the fraternity politics of his day and won a lasting victory. The issue concerned the editorship of the college annual, the Colby Oracle. The fraternities had made a deal that the editorship should rotate among them, as an improvement on the older, politics-laden method of allowing the outgoing editorial board to select its successor. Young Frank Johnson thought the new plan was
merely swapping one political set-up for another. In the editorial column of the Echo he therefore proposed that a plan be worked out to provide that, with faculty approval, nominees would be presented on merit, the final election to be left to popular student vote. With the wisdom and the courage that years later marked him as a great college administrator, Franklin Johnson, the student, wrote in 1891:

Fraternity politics plays too large a part in college affairs. Many college interests are hazarded in order that fraternities may profit. But today we see fraternity men taking a broader view, recognizing the selfishness that has prompted their actions in the past. There is a growing sentiment against fraternity combinations and their kindred evils. The students, while no less loyal to their fraternities, are becoming more loyal to the College. The consequence will be better publications, better athletics, better student activities in all areas.

As this history goes to press, college fraternities all over the land are under attack as they have never been before. Can they survive another century? Can the discriminatory constitutions, the expensive national offices, and some of the inevitable snobbery survive against the rising American demand for equality, for less bureaucracy, for less adherence to conformity? Or will the fraternities so change with the times that their ideals of brotherhood, their practice of mutual helpfulness, and their value as incubators of leaders in American society will confound the critics and assure the system's preservation? Time, and only time, will tell.

**Sororities**

As soon as women were admitted into Colby in 1871, it was inevitable that they would soon organize into societies just as had the men. By that time the pattern of the Greek letter fraternity had become accepted, and it was that pattern the women decided to follow.

In the fall of 1874, Colby's first woman student, Mary Low, was a senior, but there were four girls in the Class of 1877 who would have three more years in college and who could form the nucleus of a permanent society similar to the Dekes, Zetes, and DU's among the men. They were also determined that their organization should become a national society for college women. The faculty approved, and on November 9, 1874, Sigma Kappa was born. At first meetings were held in the homes of local members, but with the opening of Ladies Hall in 1886 weekly sessions met in that building. The society had always regarded its true founders as Mary Low, Louise Coburn, Elizabeth Hoeg, Ida Fuller, and Frances Mann. “For years after the admission of women into Colby the number of women students remained small, and practically every girl became a Sigma.”

In 1890 fifteen girls entered the college. Since Sigma Kappa had voted to limit its total membership to 25, it could not take all of them. The society therefore decided to establish in the college a second chapter called Beta of Sigma Kappa. The new girls were divided between Alpha and Beta chapters, and in 1892 a third chapter, Gamma, was set up.

The fall of 1893 saw thirty-three girls in the freshman class. Even the resources of Alpha, Beta, and Gamma could not absorb them all. Two roads were open to Sigma Kappa: either continue intramural expansion with additional chapters, or limit membership to conventional size for a single chapter, encourage the
formation of other Colby sororities, and look for Sigma Kappa expansion in other colleges. The sorority chose the latter course. They decided to fill the ranks of Alpha and take no more members into Beta and Gamma.

In 1895 Sigma Kappa got its first regular meeting room, in the home of Professor Samuel K. Smith on upper College Avenue. The next year they moved to a room at Dr. George Pepper's on Pleasant Street, but in the spring they changed to a suite on Appleton Street. In 1897 they took rooms in the Boutelle Block on Main Street, staying there until 1900, when they transferred to the Carleton Block.

In 1904 Sigma Kappa became a national society with the installation of a chapter at Boston University. This was followed by a chapter at Syracuse in 1905, and by three more in 1906: at George Washington University, Illinois Wesleyan, and the University of Illinois. In 1910 the sorority reached the Pacific coast with chapters at the Universities of California and Washington. By the time of its semi-centennial in 1924, Sigma Kappa had organized thirty-two chapters beyond Colby. The sorority's first Grand President was Miss Florence Dunn, Colby 1896. Until 1912 successive grand presidents were all members of the Colby chapter.

In 1918 Sigma Kappa accepted as a permanent philanthropic project the Maine Seacoast Mission. Interest in it had begun in a small way during World War I, when the sorority helped a few girls from Maine islands to complete a high school course on the mainland. Soon the sorority was raising enough money to support a resident worker in the mission, and Miss Lucy King became Sigma Kappa's representative on the islands. For many years the head of the Maine Seacoast Mission has been a Colby man, Rev. Neal Bousfield, 1929.

In 1895 a group of Colby girls led by Inez Bowler, Sarah Cummings, and Hattie Fossett formed a local society called Beta Phi. In 1906 the local society obtained a national charter from Chi Omega and became the Beta chapter of that sorority. It soon enjoyed marked prosperity, and many of its alumnae have been leaders in Colby affairs.

For this historian Colby's third sorority has peculiar attraction because his wife was a charter member and his daughter joined it in 1944, and for more than twenty years he was professionally associated with its most distinguished alumna, Dean Ninetta Runnals. A local group, formed in 1904, became in 1908 a chapter of the national sorority Delta Delta Delta. In 1907, Miss Grace Bacon, a young graduate of Wesleyan (then a coeducational college) came to Colby as Assistant to the Dean of Women. She was a Tri Delt and used her influence to secure for the local club a charter from that sorority. Besides Miss Runnals and Eleanor Creech (later Mrs. Marriner) there were sixteen other charter members. The first president of Alpha Upsilon chapter of Delta Delta Delta was Miss Runnals. It was Tri Delt that originated one of the most popular of Colby's annual social events — the Sadie Hawkins Dance. Perhaps they were stimulated by a visit to the campus of Al Capp, Lil' Abner's creator. In 1959 the Colby chapter won permanent possession of the Tri Delt national scholarship cup, having for the third consecutive semester held the highest scholarship standing among all the chapters of Delta Delta Delta.

In 1917 a local sorority named Gamma Delta secured a charter from the Phi Mu sorority and was installed by members of that sorority's chapter at the University of Maine. They had room in the building on Main Street occupied by Thomas Business College. The Colby chapter of Phi Mu became inactive during World War II in 1944.
In 1904, inspired by Dean Grace Berry, a group of girls had started the Cosmopolitan Club, an organization designed to absorb all non-sorority girls in the college. Within two years it had become a partially secret society called Hypatia. In 1910 it became a Greek letter local and was admitted into the Colby Panhellenic Council as Alpha Phi Alpha. In 1911 the group rented a downtown hall for headquarters. On June 10, 1915, the local society was installed as a chapter of the national sorority, Alpha Delta Pi. They at once secured larger quarters at the corner of Main and Silver Streets, and took their place among the other Colby sororities.

When the College moved to Mayflower Hill four sororities were still active: Sigma Kappa, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, and Alpha Delta Pi; and those four were still the Colby sororities in 1960. Colby has never permitted sorority houses, which perhaps accounts for the relative weakness of the sorority system compared with fraternity strength. But that weakness has valuable compensation in the greater unity that prevails among the women. Membership in a sorority is rightly prized, but the inevitable exclusiveness that springs from residence in a separate house is lacking. Sororities at Colby are properly kept in subordinate status to the interests of the Women's Division as a whole.

Plans for the Women's Union on Mayflower Hill called for a meeting room for each sorority on the top floor. The four sororities took much pride in the furnishing and decorating of those quarters, which helped to increase interest in the sororities, yet made all four an integral part of women's activities in the women's major building.

HONOR SOCIETIES

Brief space must now be given to the so-called honor societies. The oldest of those truly distinguished as rewards of merit is Phi Beta Kappa, whose Colby chapter was founded in 1895 under the stimulus of Professor J. William Black, who served continuously as the chapter secretary until 1921. During the quarter century of his service the society elected into membership 456 Colby men and women. Unlike many other chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, the Colby chapter has never elected members of the junior class, reserving membership for the highest ranking seniors soon after the middle of the senior year. Every Colby president since 1907 has been a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Where the custom started of organizing "honor" societies whose members were chosen for popularity, no one seems to know, but the custom spread to most college campuses. In the early 1900's the Men's Division at Colby had three such societies, one for each of the three upper classes. They were self-perpetuating, in that each year's membership chose its successors, and so strong was the fraternity system that an equal number of members was selected from each fraternity. More appropriately they were called "feed societies" rather than honor societies, for their chief function seemed to be sumptuous eating. The sophomore society was called Upsilon Beta, the junior society the Druids, and the senior group was the Epicureans. Only the Druids professed any unselfish purpose; they agreed to be hosts to visiting athletic teams. Long before World War II had closed the fraternity houses, all three of the class societies had ceased to function.

Two societies among the women were counterparts of the men's "honor" groups: Kappa Alpha for seniors and Chi Gamma Theta for sophomores. Very few Colby men living in 1960 remember the scandal of Theta Nu Epsilon half a century ago. It was professedly a "booze" society, though its members
were usually bigger boasters than they were drinkers. It attempted to dominate college affairs by enlisting into secret membership men from each fraternity. Several national fraternities took action against TNE. For instance, ATO announced to all of its chapters in 1910 that proved membership in TNE would subject an ATO to expulsion from the fraternity.

In 1911, Wilford G. Chapman, Jr., a member of DKE who was editor of the *Echo*, felt that the time had come to expose TNE on the Colby campus. He proceeded to publish the names of certain TNE members and to demand editorially that the organization be banned from Colby. Although he was anonymously threatened with a dire fate, Chapman was successful. The faculty took action and TNE disappeared.

After the move to Mayflower Hill there were organized two honor societies worthy of the name. The first was Cap and Gown, a group of senior women selected annually for their unselfish contributions to the cause of the College and of unity in the Women's Division. Blue Key became their counterpart in the Men's Division, and many students looked forward to the "tapping" of new members of those two societies as the most interesting feature of the annual Recognition Assembly.

Colby's societies, fraternities and sororities have not been an unmixed blessing, but through the years their positive contribution has far outweighed their shortcomings. Perhaps the best application of true fraternity spirit at Colby comes just before the student receives his diploma at the graduation exercises when the President of the College declares in Latin that these young men and women are "*non jam discipuli sed fratres et socii*"— no longer pupils, but brothers and associates. It is a significant reminder that stronger than the ties of fraternity or sorority are the bonds of membership in the big Colby family.
If religious affiliation seems to have been the feature most common to American colleges founded before the Civil War, the next most common feature was certainly a library. Springing as the American college did from British roots, it was unthinkable that it would not imitate the libraries that had been built up for several centuries in the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. In fact there is considerable truth in the statement that Harvard University had its beginning in the private library of John Harvard.

It has been stated that "the early records of Colby refer only occasionally to the library." Quite the reverse is true. Although no library catalogue earlier than 1835 is extant, and although the archives contain no librarian's report earlier than 1844, the records of both faculty and trustees for the first decade of the College, 1820 to 1830, contain many references to the library. Nor is it quite fair to say that the library "was not well chosen, being made up of such books as our friends could best spare." That statement ignores the important fact that the gifts to the library in its first decade were not exclusively theological, but contained items of general worth.

In the first year of its operation, the College had only two faculty members, President Jeremiah Chaplin and Avery Briggs; yet Briggs was immediately designated as librarian. Because of the emphasis on theological studies during the early years, it was natural that the first gifts should come from ministers and should be volumes of sermons and other religious works. But by no means were those books valueless. Among the earliest gifts were the 1761 folio of the Complete Theological Works of Isaac Ambrose, published in Edinburgh; Lyman Beecher's Lectures on Intemperance; an early London edition of Butler's Analogy; a copy of Calvin's Institutioni Christianae Religionis, printed at Heidelberg in 1572; the 1677 London edition of Caryl's Exposition of Job; John Cotton's Ecclesiastical History; Cotton Mather's Essays; and most surprisingly, thirteen volumes of the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. A few extracts from official college records show that the library was not forgotten, even when the college had fewer than fifty students.

March 12, 1824 — Voted that the President communicate to the Hon. J. Price our thanks for his donation to the Library. [Note that the title is Hon., not Rev. The donor was a layman whose gifts may not have been in the field of religion at all.]
March 26, 1824 — Voted that the President address a letter to Judge Cony, expressing our thanks for his very acceptable present to the library; viz., $20 for the purchase of books.

July 6, 1825 — Voted to express thanks to the Boston Female Juvenile Education Society for their gift of Rees's Cyclopedia.

December 5, 1825 — Voted to communicate to Mr. Walker of Boston our grateful thanks for his gift to the Library of Rollins' Ancient History in two volumes quarto with plates, and of Josephus' Antiquity of the Jews, also in two volumes with plates.

That books were actually circulated to students in the earliest years is shown by several actions taken by the faculty in 1827. By that time the teaching staff numbered three in addition to Chaplin and Briggs: Stephen Chapin as Professor of Sacred Theology, and two tutors, Ephraim Tripp and Leonard Tobey. In 1824, Tripp had relieved Briggs of the librarian’s duties.

The faculty voted to authorize Tripp to procure “two quires of wrapping paper for the purpose of covering books when taken from the Library.” They next voted to assign for use of the Library the room in South College “contiguous to the Cabinet” [the collection of minerals]. The collection of books had become large enough to warrant a systematic plan for their designation, and it was decided that “Professor Chapin shall propose a plan for labeling and numbering the books in the Library, and Mr. Tripp shall procure the printing of 2000 labels.” The time had come also for published regulations concerning the Library.

Library Regulations Adopted June 29, 1827. The Library shall be opened weekly on Fridays at 1:15 P.M. for the admission of the senior and junior classes, and at 2:00 on the same afternoon for the sophomore and freshman classes. Members of the Theological School will resort to the Library with the classes with which they rank respectively. Members of the Grammar School may take books from the Library on the condition that they be charged, on their term bills, the usual fee for the use of the Library every term during any part of which they apply for books. Such persons may resort to the Library any time after 2:00 P.M. until it is closed. Students shall be waited on according to the priority of application, but no student is allowed to interrupt the librarian while he is waiting on another student. Every student shall be considered accountable for the books he has taken out until he has presented them to the librarian and credit is actually given for their return. The librarian is allowed in no case to deviate from any of the above regulations.

When the fall term of 1827 was well under way, it was found advisable to open the Library on two afternoons, instead of only one, each week. A year earlier, the Trustees had deemed the Library of such importance that, although the College was already in debt, and budgets could be balanced only by gifts, they voted “to expend $600 for books to increase the Library, and made President Chaplin, Professor Chapin, and Treasurer Timothy Boutelle a committee to purchase the books.” One not unexpected use of the Library is shown by a vote of the Trustees in 1829: “Voted that thanks be presented to Rev. Rufus Babcock and his associates for their generous donation of text books to the Library for the use of indigent students.”
The first published catalogue of the Library showed that its collection in 1835 was widely distributed over the fields of knowledge, despite the fact that "theology and sacred literature" accounted for 489 of the total stock of 1747 volumes. There were 236 books dealing with law and politics, 165 with history, 95 with belles lettres; 49 were works of poetry and drama, and 73 were biographies. Although in 1835 science was in its infancy, the College Library had 47 volumes on Natural Philosophy, 46 on Mathematics, 23 on Chemistry, 16 on Natural History, 61 on "General Science," and six on Geology.

When the College was only fifteen years old, the Library's collection of bound periodicals already amounted to more than a hundred volumes. Most important were thirty-one bound volumes of the *Edinburgh Review*, several volumes of the *American Journal of Science and Arts*, and scattered volumes of the *London Quarterly Review*, the *Foreign Quarterly Review*, and the *Westminster Review*.

It is interesting to note a few of the distinctly secular books that were on the library shelves as early as 1835. They included six volumes of the works of Joseph Addison, six of Samuel Johnson, and perhaps more amazingly the writings of Laurence Sterne. There were Irving's *Life of Columbus* and Marshall's five-volume *Life of Washington*, as well as Southey's *Life of Nelson*. The Library had the now rare and valuable Greenleaf maps of Maine, published from 1828 to 1831. The Waterville student had access to the writings of Locke, Hume, and Adam Smith, as well as to Jonathan Edwards' *On the Will*. He could take from his college library the famous historical works of Gibbon, Hallam, and Voltaire, and he could dip into that now rare volume, *History of Religions*, by a New England woman, Hannah Adams. Nor was Maine neglected. Judge Williamson's *History of Maine* had been published in 1832, and the college library had it. If he wanted to polish his manners, the student could read the *Letters* of Lord Chesterfield. If he was interested in the newly developing sciences, he could find in the Library Erasmus Darwin's *Zoonomia*; Nuttle's *Land Birds* and its companion volume *Water Birds*; Parkman's *Introduction to Fossils*; *Mineralogy and Geology*, by Professor Parker Cleaveland of Bowdoin; Cote's *Hydrostatics*, Coddington's *Optics*, Gregory's *Mechanics*, Whewell's *Dynamics*, and Gummere's *Astronomy*. Even an interest in travel was whetted by Park's *Travels in Africa*, Samuel Johnson's *Journey to the Western Islands*, and Leigh's *Journey to Egypt*. And, believe it or not, the Waterville College Library in 1835 was not too squeamish to circulate the poems of Byron and of Burns.

Interest in book collections and periodical subscriptions for student use was made apparent by the attention given to their libraries by the two literary societies, the Literary Fraternity and the Erosophian Adelphi, whose activities have been recounted in a previous chapter. The original constitution of each society provided for the office of librarian to have charge of the society's collection of books and to administer its reading room. A dozen years older than the Adelphi, the Literary Fraternity had the larger library in 1843, when the librarian of the Adelphi, in an appeal to alumni and friends, wrote: "Although our library is more valuable than that of the Literary Fraternity, 1500 sounds better than 1000, notwithstanding the fact that the extra 500 may be made up of antique spelling books."

As early as 1824 the Literary Fraternity voted to raise over a period of three years what was then the huge sum of $300 to increase its library. Hastings, a Waterville bookseller, agreed to furnish the selected volumes at 35% discount.
A competitor, Lane of Hallowell, agreed to give 40%, furnish all the books immediately and take his payment in three annual installments. Members of the faculty subscribed to the society libraries as well as to the College Library. In 1824 each professor gave five dollars toward the campaign of the Literary Fraternity and President Chaplin gave ten dollars.

Probably there never was a time when any library frequented by young men was free from vandalism. In 1833 both the College Library and that of the Literary Fraternity suffered losses. The culprit was apprehended. The faculty minutes of October 21, 1833, contain the following item,

B. W. of the junior class was arraigned on the charge of having purloined books and plates from the college and society libraries, confessed his crime and restored a part of the stolen articles and promised to restore the remainder forthwith. Voted unanimously that the crime of W - - is such as to require that his connection with this college be dissolved and he is accordingly directed to remove himself and his effects from the college premises before sundown.

The societies were more active in providing current periodicals than was the College Library. By 1855, when the two societies were operating a joint reading room, they were subscribing to three daily papers—a very early date for dailies to be read in Maine. On Feb. 21, 1855, Erosophian Adelphi voted that “with the concurrence of the Literary Fraternity, the daily papers for the Reading Room shall be the Portland Daily Advertiser, the Boston Daily Journal, and the New York Daily Tribune.” In 1856 the society reading room was receiving regularly more than thirty periodicals, prominent among which were Harper's, the North American Review, and Littel's Living Age.

When both societies dissolved in the 1870's, they gave their libraries to the College, and the College Library was thus increased by more than four thousand volumes.

The contribution of the Literary Fraternity and the Erosophian Adelphi is admirably summed up by Herrick and Rush:

The libraries of the early literary societies throughout the country are known to have played an important part in the development of our present college and university libraries. The transfer of well-selected society collections was a stroke of fortune to the college library, which often consisted for the most part of aggregate gifts of charity. We can realize the gain for the institutions that had those society libraries as their foundation collections. What was lost thereby we can less easily measure; that is, the individual student interest and active participation in the selection of books and in the management of the libraries.4

The earliest librarian's report preserved in the college archives was written by Martin B. Anderson, librarian in 1844. He was the man who later became famous as the founder and first president of the University of Rochester. After his graduation from Waterville College in 1840, he became tutor, then professor of rhetoric in the College, and served as librarian from 1842 to 1850. Anderson's report in 1844 showed that sale of duplicates and “a number of small books not fitted for use of students” had netted $115.20, only $20.80 of which was needed for binding. The remaining $94.40 had been spent for new purchases, some of
THE LIBRARY

which had been received and the rest were “now on order from the importer.” That makes it obvious that most of the purchases were coming from London. Among the items thus procured in 1844 were Darwin’s Journal, De Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, and Thiers’ History of England.

Publication of another catalogue in 1845 showed that in ten years the Library had grown from 1747 volumes to 3318. Especially significant was the increase in bound periodicals. The decade had seen the addition of 23 volumes of the Eclectic Review; 12 volumes of the Journal de Physique (Paris); 113 volumes of the Universal Magazine (London); eight volumes of the Annals of Education (Boston); and six volumes of the Mémoires de Physique et de Chimie de la Société D’Arcueil (Paris). The Library had also acquired the earliest sixteen issues of the Maine Register, and had secured the valuable issues of the Massachusetts Register from 1791 to 1833.

The Library was keeping up with many current publications. It had the Life and Correspondence of Thomas Arnold, published in 1845, the very year the catalogue was printed. It had Thomson’s The Seasons (1841), Byron’s Dramas (1842), the Earl of Clarendon’s History of the Rebellion in England (1843). More surprising was its early accession of three books in German: Ulrich’s Reisen und Forschungen in Griechenland (Bremen, 1840); Hermann’s Lehrbuch der Griechischen Staatsalterthümer (Heidelberg, 1841); and Hermann’s Über Griechische Monatkunde (Göttingen, 1844).

Although by today’s standards growth of the College Library seemed slow in the next decade, 1845 to 1855, the total volumes added were 1038, bringing the library holdings to nearly 4400 volumes. Nearly half of the thousand additions were acquired by purchase, showing that persistent and successful efforts were made to raise money for the Library. In that period money was going for books, not for service. Martin B. Anderson complained to the Trustees that he received no additional recompense for serving as librarian, although previous to 1843 his predecessor had been paid $50 a year. In 1850 Anderson was succeeded by Samuel K. Smith, both as Professor of Rhetoric and as Librarian. He had charge of the Library for 23 years, when in 1873 he was succeeded by the man whose competence, genius and devotion made the Colby Library widely known for its service to education—Edward Winslow Hall.

Four years before Hall assumed office, the Library had entered its new quarters in Memorial Hall. At first housed in a small room in South College, it had been moved to Recitation Hall when that building was erected in 1836. When Memorial Hall was completed in 1869, its eastern wing, with double alcoves two floors high, became the home of the College Library for nearly eighty years.

Although Colby was to wait until 1929 for its first trained librarian, it had a progressive and professionally minded librarian in Edward Winslow Hall. Before he took office he had succeeded in persuading the Trustees to set up their first permanent library fund of $3000, and that modest nest egg became the nucleus of later substantial funded accounts for the benefit of the Library. What Hall did to improve the service within a few years is shown by praise from John Eaton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, who visited most of the northeastern colleges in 1877. His report said:

The gratifying increase in the usefulness of the Library of Colby University, one of the most notable increases made anywhere in New England, was due to the labors of the present efficient librarian, Professor
E. W. Hall, in cataloguing, indexing, and making accessible the contents of the Library; from his efforts to procure, by gift or purchase, desirable books actually in demand; from appointing the library hour at the close of chapel service, when the students would all be assembled near by in the building, and from throwing open the alcoves to the free inspection of students.

It was not easy for Hall to persuade the faculty to adopt open stacks. Almost everyone at that time held the view which many years later Sinclair Lewis attributed to the librarian in *Main Street*, that "it is the first duty of the librarian to preserve the books." Edward Hall believed, however, that a superior duty is to make books available to students and to acquaint them with books by giving every opportunity for browsing. That the open shelf plan adopted by Hall in 1874 really worked is shown by the praise in Commissioner Eaton's report:

There seems to have been no trouble arising from admitting students to the shelves. Not a volume has been missed, and there is very little misplacing of books. The saving in assistants and the speed in procuring books would far more than equal a loss of $50 worth of books a year.

In 1870, under Smith, the average circulation per student had been ten volumes; by 1880, under Hall, it had risen to thirty-six volumes. In 1881, Hall's report said: "Our circulation remains higher than the average rate of college libraries. In 1874 we circulated only 761 volumes. Last year we circulated 5746."

So rapid was the growth in accessions during Hall's first seventeen years that, in 1890, the Library had 23,920 books and 10,500 pamphlets, all of which Hall had personally catalogued. Poole's *Index to Periodical Literature* had been added in 1883. The library of the late Charles Hamlin, presented by his widow, had added 1456 volumes, many of them choice works of science. The alcoves already were overcrowded, and in a few years hundreds of infrequently used volumes were stored in the attic. In his 1890 report Hall said:

The books most in demand are those that are read in connection with topics brought to the students' attention in prosecution of their studies. The Library is now open the entire afternoon of every week day. In 1873 two half-hours per week answered all demands.

In 1891 the Trustees decided the time had come to relieve Hall of all teaching duties and let him devote full time to the Library. Since 1866 he had been Professor of Modern Languages, carrying a full teaching schedule. Yet for at least ten years prior to 1890 he had devoted never less than thirty hours a week to library duties. Without any relaxation in his teaching he had alone accomplished the prodigious task of cataloguing more than 30,000 items, and had installed a card catalogue. Recognition was long overdue, and when he became full-time librarian in 1891 he only carried on what he had already done for many years.

Hall's catalogue system was actually a shelving system. The alcoves were numbered one, two, three, etc., beginning at the entrance. Divisions in the shelves were marked by partitions. The number 154, for instance, meant that the book
was located on the first floor, fifth alcove, fourth division. Hall's card catalogue was the first to be introduced into any library in Maine. In 1888 he changed to the Dewey System, which prevailed until the adoption of the Library of Congress classification in 1935.

For many years, despite the interest of friends and the zeal of a devoted librarian, the Colby Library suffered for lack of funds. In 1892 Hall said that no attempt had been made for the past forty years to add a nickel to the tiny library fund. Seven years earlier, in 1885, Hall had said:

As will be seen by references to the report of the Treasurer, the sum appropriated for the purchase of books has been growing less for several years past, while appropriation for binding has ceased altogether. This is not likely to be interpreted as evidence of advancement. If the decreasing process must continue, might it not be well to ask the Treasurer not to publish our shame abroad?

Finances had not improved when Hall retired in 1910, after 37 years as librarian and 43 years as a member of the faculty. By 1898 the appropriation had decreased until it was lower than at any time since 1870. Only 78 books were purchased and subscriptions to periodicals were sharply reduced. Except for special appropriations springing from designated campaigns or allocated donations, the regular library appropriation did not reach $1000 until 1913. What is more astounding, the largest regular appropriation previous to that year had been in the earliest decade of the College, when $600 was allocated to the Library. In 1834 the amount had fallen to $74. In 1882 it had reached $450, but eight years later in 1890 it was down to $202. Although in 1900 it was up again to $440, at the end of the next decade in 1910 it had dropped again to $246. When the College celebrated its centennial in 1920, the year's total expenditure for the Library, exclusive of the librarian's salary and the wages of student assistants, was $1181.

In 1897 the Colby Library had 30,000 volumes besides 14,000 pamphlets, and despite low funds the average annual increase was a thousand volumes. At that time the Library also supported a reading room in a separate building.

The Reading Room is situated in the South Division of South College, on the first floor, directly across from the President's office. Here may be found twenty-one daily newspapers, besides thirty-two others, including the principal local papers published in Maine, religious papers of various denominations, Puck and Judge. The room is open daily except Sunday, 8 A. M. to 10 P. M., and on Sunday from 1 to 8 P. M.

In a previous chapter we have told of the attempts in 1902 to retire Professor Hall and operate the Library "more cheaply." The Trustees actually voted to notify Hall that his services would not be needed after the end of that college year, but alumni sentiment and the obvious injustice forced them to change their minds. Fortunately for Colby College, Professor Hall remained in charge of the Library through the critical financial years until better days had already come under President Roberts.

We must not think that Hall's work was not appreciated or that there was any personal antagonism toward him. The President and the Trustees, in 1902, were in desperation seeking every means of economy, and they were so unwise
as to believe it could be obtained by releasing one of New England's best known librarians. Fortunately they changed their minds.

Although Hall was retained in 1902, his salary was cut. When he had given up teaching in 1891, although keeping the title of full professor, he was paid three hundred dollars less than his colleagues. In 1904, when the professors were getting $1600 a year, Hall's salary was only $1000. Hall protested in a letter to Dudley P. Bailey, chairman of the Finance Committee of the Trustees. He pointed out that while he was obliged to carry on all the work at the Colby Library, without even student assistance, which had been denied him since 1898, the librarian at Bowdoin got $2200, and had four full-time assistants: an assistant librarian at $1000, a reference librarian at $800, a cataloguer at $600, and an assistant cataloguer at six dollars a week, as well as the provision of $350 for student assistants. At the University of Maine the librarian's salary was $1800. He had two assistants, at $800 and $600 respectively, and there was $400 for student assistants. Only at Bates was the situation comparable to that at Colby. In Lewiston the librarian was part-time at $550, and $300 was paid to an assistant. But even Bates, Hall pointed out, had an appropriation for student help. Hall commented ruefully, "The librarian of a college is usually paid the same as a full professor." He could have been quite as mournful about the appropriation for books and periodicals. In 1907 he had only $275 for that purpose.

A year later Hall wanted to know what had happened to his long cherished library fund. "The appropriation last year was the smallest I have ever known [bear in mind that he had known the Library intimately for 38 years]. Something has happened to the Library Fund investments. The income in 1906 was $389.83. Last year it was only $267.25." In a moment of repentance the Trustees responded by appropriating for 1908 a sum of $300 in addition to income from the fund, but the trustee records for June, 1909, tell us: "It was moved to amend the item in the report of the Committee on Finance appropriating $300 to the Library, so that the allotment to the Library should be solely the income from the Library Fund, estimated at $300."

During Hall's long tenure as librarian there began a practice of which he did not approve, but which his colleagues on the faculty countenanced because each of them never knew when he might be the next one to profit by the change. The new feature was the institution of departmental libraries, separately administered, separately financed, and all issuing books directly to students. The practice was initiated by Shailer Mathews, who expressed his views in a letter written to the President and Trustees of Colby University in 1891, immediately after Mathews' return from a year of study in Berlin.

My study of the German methods and results convinces me the students must examine original historical documents if the study of history is to be successful. Our senior class is competent to do other work than the mere appropriation of other men's conclusions. Because of the lack of such documents in our library such work is now impossible. We have available few of the sources except public documents. The only way to meet the need is by special annual appropriation for the collection of documents in the college library.

At first Mathews seems to have intended only special attention to the department's needs in the general library, but he soon changed to an appeal for a
separate departmental collection, and the Trustees voted, "In addition to the general library of the College, it shall be the policy to build up the libraries of special departments." Thus began the library of the Department of History, supported for many years by student fees, and jealously administered by Professor J. W. Black until he left Colby to go to Union College in 1924. Then, on recommendation of the new librarian, who had been on the job only a year, the entire history library was transferred to the central collection.

Meanwhile other departmental libraries had come into being, notably those in the departments of Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Geology. They were not joined by other departments because only the sciences and history had any space allotted even for faculty offices, to say nothing of libraries. It eventually became fixed policy to encourage departmental collections, but to have them catalogued at the central library and regarded as on permanent loan to the departments.

When Edward W. Hall retired in 1910, the College chose a worthy successor. Hard as it was to follow a man as distinguished as Hall, young Charles P. Chipman of the Class of 1906 was the man to do it. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, Chipman had been editor of the Echo, had put out a class newspaper throughout his four undergraduate years, had served as part-time secretary to President White while still a student, had followed President White to New York when the latter became Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Board, and was already recognized as a popular writer of boys' books. Already self-educated in the science of bibliography, Chipman spent a period of several months at the Brown University Library under the tutelage of its distinguished librarian, Harry Lyman Koopman, Colby 1880. Chipman came to his position in the Colby library with a comprehensive knowledge of its holdings, gained in his undergraduate years, with a sincere love of books, and with some training in cataloging and other library techniques.

Chipman saw at once that the Library was hopelessly overcrowded, but it was 1916 before he was able to convince the Trustees to do something to relieve the congestion. He then appeared personally before the Board and presented convincing facts about the growth of the Library and its steadily increasing use by students. He submitted plans for connecting the gallery in the library wing in Memorial Hall with the so-called Alumni Hall on the second floor of the main building, and for turning Alumni Hall into a reading room with provision for stacks to accommodate 10,000 volumes in most frequent use. The estimated cost was $2240. Through the generosity of Charles Seavems, 1901, the remodeled room was beautifully furnished and renamed the Seavems Reading Room.

When the United States entered the war in the spring of 1917, Chipman resigned to take up YMCA service with the troops. Associate Professor Robert W. Crowell was appointed part-time librarian and continued in the office until Chipman returned in 1919.

In 1923 Chipman resigned to enter the insurance business in Hartford, Connecticut. He was succeeded by Ernest C. Marriner, Colby, 1913, who was to be the last Colby librarian not to hold a professional degree from a library school. As it had been Chipman's task to secure added space and increase the funds, it became his successor's to popularize the Library and make students willing and eager to use it. The increased use demanded more assistance, although until 1926 the librarian remained the only full-time employee. Even when Miss Doris Tozier,
1925, was employed as full-time assistant, the librarian made an explanation that would be rightly condemned by modern followers of the profession.

By taking one of our own girls, a graduate in last year’s class, and training her in our library to meet our own particular needs, we shall be assured service quite as satisfactory as would be the work of the graduate of a library school, who would cost us twice as much.

From 1916 to 1926 the office of the Colby librarian was in the tiny room that served as a thoroughfare between the Seavems Reading Room and the gallery of the Old Library in the east wing. In 1926 that room was converted into space for the shelving and issuance of reserved books, and the alcove at the head of the main staircase in Memorial Hall was converted into an office. This was accomplished through the ardent support of the trustee chairman of Buildings and Grounds, Judge Norman Bassett, who was always responsive to library needs.

Pointing out the pressing need for additional stacks, Marriner conceived the plan of utilizing space beneath the floor of the Old Library. Only partly excavated and without cemented foundation, that space was useless. The burning of Coburn Hall in 1927 prevented a start on the new stacks in that year, but it was begun in 1928 and completed just in time to greet the new librarian in 1929, when Marriner became Dean of Men. Before that date, however, Harold Clark, 1925, had been appointed assistant librarian, and he rendered invaluable aid to a succession of librarians during the following ten years.

In 1929, for the first time, the Colby Library was placed on a professional basis, when Robert B. Downs, a graduate of the Columbia Library School, was appointed librarian. Although he remained at Colby only two years, his professional training and his sound judgment enabled him to effect many improvements, including special attention to the Library’s long neglected holdings of rare items, and the cataloging of many government documents. In 1931 Downs left Colby to become, within a few years, one of the nation’s best known university librarians, as Director of Libraries at the University of Illinois.

In 1928-29, the last report of Librarian Marriner showed that the number of books had reached 70,456, augmented by an unknown number of pamphlets estimated at 20,000. Accessions for the year had been 2459 bound volumes, 1287 unbound government documents, and 729 other pamphlets. Circulation for outside use was 18,136, and 34,833 volumes were circulated from the reserved book room for use in the reading room. By 1928 the staff consisted of three full-time persons, but none with professional training. In addition to their salaries, the appropriation for books, periodicals, binding, supplies, student service, and all other operating expenses was $3500.

When Downs left, in 1931, the staff included a second person with library school degree, Miss Mary Whitcomb, and Mr. Clark had taken professional training in the summer. In 1932 Clark was on leave, to complete work for the B.L.S. degree at Columbia, and his place was taken by Miss Miriam Thomas, a Colby graduate of 1929, who also held the B.L.S. degree.

From 1931 to 1935 the librarian was Joseph S. Ibbotson, who was succeeded for one year by J. Periam Danton. Then, in 1936 came N. Orwin Rush, who rendered distinguished service during the difficult years from 1936-46, when plans were being developed for removal to the Miller Library on the new campus. Rush was a skilled bibliographer, who published several carefully annotated
bibliographies, including those of Rufus Jones and Carl J. Weber. Under his
leadership the Library made significant advancement.

During the year 1936-37 total expense of operating the Library, including
salaries, was $19,039. Regular salaries were $5650 for three persons; student help
amounted to $1417; books and periodicals cost $4821; $1000 was spent for bind­
ing; sundry expenses amounted to $6151. By this time the number of volumes
had increased to 89,174.

In the fall of 1937, Mary Herrick, a graduate of the Simmons College School
of Library Science, became cataloguer, and a third full-time worker was added in
the person of a clerical assistant. Throughout the 1930's the library work was
facilitated by the use of students paid by the National Youth Administration.
Rush's 1938 report said: "Seventeen NYA students have worked regularly in
the library. Eight have worked in the catalogue department helping with the re­
cataloging and reclassification. One has been engaged in repairing books and
several have assisted at the circulation desk."

Before 1930 it had become necessary to store many books in the attic of
Chemical Hall. When the new stacks were installed in the basement of the old
library in Memorial Hall, five thousand volumes in the Chemical Hall attic were
transferred to the new stacks, but this could not be done until the steel stacks were
completed installed, six years after construction of the basement had been finished.

The year of the nation's entry into World War II was significant for the Colby
Library, because it was in that year that the total collection of catalogued items,
not including several thousand pamphlets, first exceeded a hundred thousand. At
the end of the college year 1941-42 the total was 104,560, and new acquisitions
were nearly triple those of a decade earlier, having risen from less than 2500 to
more than 6800. Purchases alone accounted for 2100 volumes.

In 1940 the Library began the microfilming of certain periodicals and installed
a reading machine. Since that time the process has been expanded to include
regular filming of the New York Times, the Waterville Sentinel, and other publica­
tions, as well as emergency filming of numerous pages of books and pamphlets.

When Orwin Rush resigned in 1946, it was under an interim librarian, Gil­
more Warner, that Colby's hundred thousand books, more than twenty thousand
pamphlets, and hundreds of pieces of equipment were moved to the new library
on Mayflower Hill. The tremendous task was accomplished smoothly by the
construction of wooden trays, each accommodating one shelf of books. The posi­
tion of each shelf-full thus transported was clearly marked, and they went into
place without re-sorting.

What a change it was from the cramped quarters in Memorial to the spacious
rooms of the Miller Library! The beautiful new reading room in the south end
of Miller provided more floor space than the entire amount available in the old
library. Space in the new preparation and cataloging department was larger than
the old Seaverns Reading Room, and five tiers of stacks (one of the six tiers was
left open as a passageway between the building's two wings) seemed likely to
provide room for expanding the collection for many years to come. To be sure,
much of the building had to be used at first for classrooms and administrative
offices, but by 1960 the erection of the Lovejoy Building had removed all class­
rooms from the Library, and the start made on construction of the Administrative
Building assured that soon all of the large space in Miller could be used entirely
for library and seminar purposes. Then would be fulfilled the obligation to pro­
vide several separate rooms for prominent collections donated in recent years.
In 1947 there came to Colby as librarian the man who made the Colby Library on Mayflower Hill the remarkably efficient service organization that it became. James Humphry, a graduate of Harvard and of the Columbia Library School, possessed the happy combination of thorough professional training, sound scholarship, warm personality, and brilliant administrative ability. He found a library of 115,000 volumes; he left it in 1957 with 178,000 volumes. The full-time staff in 1947 consisted of five persons; in 1957 it numbered twelve. Appropriation for all purposes, including salaries had increased from $21,000 to $66,000. Humphry's successor was John R. McKenna, who became Colby librarian in the summer of 1957.

For fifteen years prior to the writing of this history, an important contribution to the library's permanent service had been rendered by the Associate Librarian, Elizabeth Libbey. A native of Augusta, Miss Libbey had graduated from Colby in 1929, had taken her degree in library science at Columbia, and had served in several public and institutional libraries before returning to her alma mater in 1945 as Reference and Circulation Librarian. When she was promoted to Associate Librarian, Miss Libbey was given faculty status and soon rose to the rank of associate professor. During the absence of Librarian Humphry on military service, at the time of the Korean War, Miss Libbey managed the Library as Acting Librarian. By 1960 she had served cooperatively and efficiently with three different Colby librarians, and she could look forward to many more years of service to her college.

A glance at the annually published reports of the College Treasurer, during the sixth decade of this century, will show that the Library has been the beneficiary of many special funds through the long years of its history. In 1959 those funds were 19 in number and amounted to $64,000. Those which proved most valuable in the lean years of the 1920's were the Albion Woodbury Small Fund of $5000 and the Lorimer Fund of $3750. Income from the latter provided books in economics, while from the former came books in sociology.

Every college library in America got its start and continued its growth largely through gifts. Although this chapter has already shown that, even in the early days, purchases for the Colby Library played a significant part, for more than a hundred years the major portion of each year's accessions came from gifts. The first president, Jeremiah Chaplin, bequeathed to the College his personal library of more than two thousand volumes. His Civil War successor, James Champlin, gave his valuable collections on the classics. From the estate of Charles Hamlin, that shy scholar in natural history, came nearly 1500 valuable items. One of the last acts of Librarian Hall, before his death in 1910, was to secure a gift of more than 600 volumes of Greek and Roman classics in beautiful, uniform bindings. In 1928, from the estate of James King, 1889, came a thousand handsomely bound, deluxe editions of English and French literature. Those major gifts were augmented by a constant flow of smaller donations from alumni and friends. All of this was before the magnificent contributions which came subsequent to 1930, through the work of the Colby Library Associates and the rapid expansion of the collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Although many persons had shown generous interest in the Colby Library, there was no organization apart from the librarian and his staff who made its welfare their special concern until the Colby Library Associates took form in 1935. It was the ingenious conception of Frederick A. Pottle, 1917, Professor of English at Yale, who recruited its membership personally. His method was the kind that
President Arthur Roberts once described as the best plan of evangelism, "hook and line rather than net." Although a general invitation was sometimes placed in the pages of the Alumnus, it was personal solicitation by Pottle that brought in the members. His first charter members, besides the founder himself, were Professor Weber and Dean Marriner, and his entire charter list in 1935 numbered only 26. By 1945 it had grown to 126 adult and 65 undergraduate members. Every alumni or faculty member paid an annual fee of five dollars, and a smaller fee came from each undergraduate member. The avowed purpose of the Associates was to use all the fees to purchase for the Library valuable items not afforded by the general budget, with special attention to works which would enlarge the opportunity for scholarship on the part of faculty and students.

Because several faculty members most interested in the Associates were also interested in the collection of rare books, the Associates were soon accused of favoring the purchase of rare collector's items. The charge was unfounded. Although the Associates' committee on selection did indeed make an occasional purchase for the Treasure Room, by far the larger part of their annual donations went for significant items to supplement regular college work. Some of the items procured during the first ten years of the organization were:

- Bibliotheca Americana
- Annals of the New York Stage
- Black's Law Dictionary
- The Kelmscott Chaucer
- Correspondence of William Cowper
- Faraday's Diary
- Hand-Atlas of Human Anatomy
- Linguistic Atlas of New England
- Toynbee's Study of History
- Introduction to Old French Phonology

For several years the Associates supported a series of monthly lectures on literary and bibliographical subjects. Recently, because of expansion of the college lecture program, the Associates' lectures have been reduced to four each year. Until 1959, when he completed twenty-five years with the organization, Dr. Pottle was himself its president. Annually the Associates award a prize to the senior who has collected the best private library during his or her undergraduate years.

What Librarian Rush said in 1945 was still true of the Colby Library Associates in 1960.

This organization is an integral part of the Colby Library and of the college itself. Some of the finest books in our collection bear the bookplate of the Associates, and some of the most stimulating lecturers brought to the College have come under its auspices. Even if the organization should disband now, the Library would be permanently enriched by the accessions made possible over the last decade. But it is still an active and growing society whose next ten years should see even greater service.

To one man alone Colby College owes the widespread fame of its Library, for without Professor Carl Weber it would have no famous collection of rare books.
Weber had come to Colby in 1919, fresh from his experience as an Army officer in World War I, and not long removed from the academic environment of Oxford University, where he had been enrolled as a Rhodes scholar after his graduation from Johns Hopkins University. After serving at Colby for a short period as instructor in English, he taught briefly at the U. S. Naval Academy, then returned to Colby where he remained a member of the faculty until his retirement in 1959. Before President Roberts’ death in 1927, Weber had already been promoted to full professor and had been made chairman of the English Department, which Roberts had previously refused to turn over to anyone else after he assumed the presidency in 1908. During the “interregnum” of 1927-29 Weber was a member of the Executive Committee administering the College in the absence of a president.

From his first day on the Colby campus Professor Weber took an active interest in the Library. He found it woefully deficient in the tools needed even by undergraduates in English and American literature. It was like pulling impacted teeth to get appropriations for the needed books, but gradually Weber, with the help of successive librarians, extracted the necessary dollars. Important gifts were also acquired, and by 1945 the Colby working collection in English and American Literature had become the envy of many another small college.

During the 1920's Weber developed an interest in the writings of Thomas Hardy. In fact Weber’s special field of teaching, although he taught almost everything from Beowulf to Thomas Wolfe, had always been the Victorian period of English poetry and prose. In the summer of 1929 Weber conducted a literary tour of England, during which he made his first intensive inspection of the Thomas Hardy country in Dorset. On his return to Waterville, Weber talked to the Faculty Club on “A Visit to the Hardy Country.” At the end of that evening President Johnson said to the speaker, “I think you have a book there.” That remark was just the encouragement needed to start a chain of events which led to the publication of several scholarly books and numerous articles on Hardy, all from the pen of Carl J. Weber.

In 1937, with the cooperation of Librarian Rush, Weber put on a library exhibit of the Hardy items. In order to prepare for that exhibit, he and Rush visited the library of Wesleyan University, where a literary exhibit had just been displayed. That visit to Middletown, Connecticut, had important results far be-
yond the proposed Hardy exhibition. At the Wesleyan function Weber's literary acquaintance, Carroll Wilson, introduced him to H. Bacon Collamore, an insurance executive of Hartford. Collamore was founder and head of the Edwin Arlington Robinson Memorial Association. Weber learned that the Association intended to bring together at the Robinson birthplace in Head Tide, Maine, all the books, papers, manuscripts, and memorabilia of the poet.

Weber, as he puts it, "blurted out to Collamore my consternation at the thought of collecting all this wealth and depositing it at a place inaccessible throughout the long winters, open in the summer only to tourists, and in no way equipped to meet the needs of scholars. It did not take long to convince Mr. Collamore that it would be better to deposit the materials in an institutional library, and that, fortunately, Colby was not only near the Robinson regions, Head Tide and Gardiner, but that also the College was about to erect a new library building."

Such a change of plan was not easy to accomplish. Several of the poet's close relatives were still living, none of whom had any immediate interest in Colby, and the same was true of Robinson's associates at the MacDowell colony in New Hampshire. But Weber soon secured the attention and interest of the poet's sister-in-law, Mrs. Herman Robinson, of her daughter, Mrs. Nivison of Gardiner, of the poet's close friend, Mr. Burnham, and of Miss Margaret Perry of Hancock, N. H., whose mother had painted the well-known portrait of Robinson then hanging at Harvard.

Weber credits President Johnson's friendly, tactful approach for the success of the plan. Mrs. Nivison afterwards said she thought Johnson and Weber had called on her to ask for one Robinson manuscript. Instead they asked for nothing. Johnson merely said that Colby was planning to erect a new library, one of the finest in the state, and that if she and her associates wished to make use of it the College would be glad to provide a memorial room in the building.

In a note to this historian Weber told what eventually happened.

When Mr. Nivison was suddenly transferred by his company to Mobile, Alabama, I got a hurried call from Mrs. Nivison. I got a college truck with two drivers, and off we went to Gardiner and Head Tide and brought 'the works' back to Waterville: hundreds of books, hundreds of letters, sixteen manuscripts (some of them book length), filing cases, and numerous other items. For safe keeping against fire, these were stored in a vault at the Peoples-Ticonic Bank (now the Depositors Trust Company) until the new library should be ready to receive them.

In 1943 a temporary treasure room was opened in the Women's Union on Mayflower Hill, when that building first became available for college use. Into the temporary room were moved the Robinson and the Hardy collections.

When, in 1947, a designated room in the Miller Library was at last ready, Colby acquired the Perry portrait of Robinson, which, though displayed at Harvard, had never been the property of the University. The room was fittingly named the Edwin Arlington Robinson Treasure Room, and on protected shelves either side of the portrait were arrayed the Robinson collection. Professor Weber was named Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Even before 1947, the collection had begun to expand. Weber had been quietly gathering the juvenile "Rollo" books and other writings by an early 19th century Maine man, Jacob Abbott of Farmington. In three annual installments,
Mr. Collamore gave his famous Henry James collection. From various sources came Wordsworth items. Colby became the first library in New England to possess all the publications of William Morris' incomparable Kelmscott Press.

As soon as the Treasure Room was opened, visitors became so impressed that many of them offered additions to the collections. Miss Perry gave the entire library collected by her father. In the fall of 1948, James A. Healy, a New York broker whose boyhood home had been Portland, but who was then quite unknown to any Colby person, visited the Treasure Room. Mr. Healy had for years been a collector of Irish literature and had become a fostering patron of the aged James B. Connolly, author of sea stories popular in the early 1900's. Mr. Healy set up at Colby a complete collection of Connolly first editions and hundreds of items about the man. He followed that gift with every first edition that had come from the famous Cuala Press, founded in Dublin by the family of William Butler Yeats. Eventually Mr. Healy decided to give to Colby his entire collection of Irish literature—the most complete assembling of 19th and 20th century Irish writing and publication to be found anywhere in America. When erection of the Administration Building should permit withdrawal of offices from the east wing of the Miller Library, a large room of the second floor would become the permanent home of the Healy Irish Collection.

After the death of Harold T. Pulsifer of Portland, his widow gave his distinguished poetry library to Colby. That too will eventually be placed in a Pulsifer Poetry Room. The collection of classical works in deluxe bindings, assembled by Henry F. Merrill of Portland, is displayed in a room on the third floor.

With the acquisition of the Vernon Lee letters the Treasure Room became a distinguished depository of autograph letters and unpublished materials. A collection of the letters of Sarah Orne Jewett was edited and published by Professor Richard Cary. Scholars come from many places to consult these unpublished items. Two Ph.D. candidates at Harvard have worked on the Vernon Lee letters; a young man from the University of Pittsburgh has earned his doctorate by work in the Hardy collection; scholars from Toronto, from London and other parts of England, have called or written about Hardy items. The total holdings of all the collections reached in 1960 the amazing number of 16,854 books and 10,279 manuscripts.

Very few liberal arts colleges can boast of a regular library magazine. Such a privilege is usually reserved for the large universities. In 1943, however, Professor Weber was able to start the *Colby Library Quarterly*. In the course of subsequent years, the Quarterly made known to the outside world the nature of the Treasure Room's rich contents. For its pages Weber was able to secure articles from some of the nation's leading bibliophiles.

Closely allied to the Library has been the Colby College Press, another of Professor Weber's creations. The printer, both of the Colby Press imprints and of the *Colby Library Quarterly* was for many years Maine's distinguished typographer, Fred Anthoensen of Portland. Some of the works produced under the Colby imprint have been:

Carl J. Weber: *Hardy Music*, 1944
Carroll Wilson: *Descriptive Catalogue of the Grolier Club Centenary Exhibition of the Works of Thomas Hardy*, 1946
*Eight Hundred Years of Fine Printing*, 1946
When Professor Weber retired in 1959, his English Department colleague, Professor Richard Cary, succeeded him as Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, Editor of the Colby Library Quarterly, and Director of the Colby College Press.

The College enters upon its fourth half-century confident that it has in the Colby Library not only the materials and the service to make its teaching most effective, but that it also has a collection of rare books and manuscripts, as well as a list of publications, that have attracted favorable attention far beyond the college walls.
All over the nation attention to physical exercise in our schools and colleges has followed two roads: one through athletic sports, the other through what is today called physical education. Both roads were laid out to reach the same destination, the health of the student, and both were prompted by student, not faculty demand.

In our church-founded colleges there was a puritanical attitude toward play of any sort. Pious, pulpit-bound students should not indulge in frivolous pursuits. But youth, even pious youth, must somehow vent their exuberance, and on every campus in the land there never was a time when some sort of unorganized play did not go on. Such play gradually developed into impromptu competitive games. With the rising popularity of baseball, immediately after the Civil War, there sprang up intramural organized teams, from which it was only a step to varsity teams and intercollegiate competition.

Such indeed was the beginning of athletics at Colby. At first there was a separate association for each separate sport. Even when those were combined into a general athletic association, control of all athletic matters — scheduling, financing, coaching, and eligibility — was completely in student hands. As time went on, increased expenses brought association debts. The students turned to alumni for help. As the graduates came to be persistently tapped for donations, they became inclined to demand some voice in control of the sports. The result was the Colby Athletic Council, on which the alumni had powerful representation.

It became apparent that only when one person could oversee finances for a period of years could any assurance be given of proper control; hence the selection of a permanent member of the faculty to serve as treasurer and as custodian of equipment. He and another faculty member sat on the athletic council and acted as liaison between that council and the faculty.

Finances also provided a powerful reason for eventually bringing athletics under control of faculty and trustees. The athletic council, especially with alumni stimulation and support, often called upon the corporation for financial assistance. Would the College pay for a new cinder track? Would it build a new fence? Would it pay for portable stands? Would it maintain a hockey rink? Would it pay for a coach, if he would devote part time to physical education? The answer was not always No, and the result was chaos in athletic administration.

Meanwhile traffic was developing along the second road, that of physical education. As early as 1845, the frequent boisterous "blow-offs" of student exuberance caused the faculty to give attention to the need for physical exercise in...
some less obnoxious form. Curiously enough, it was abandonment of the college workshop that accentuated the need. Students had been expected to work off surplus energy in that shop. After the shop had been closed as an unprofitable venture, the students asked for use of the building as a place for gymnastic exercise, and they agreed to supply the furnishings. The faculty consented, with the provision that the students must be responsible for any damage to the building.

Apparently no student organization was formed and no equipment was furnished. Interest subsided, for George King recalled that, when he entered the college in 1853, there was no gymnasium and during his four years as a student he never heard of "physical culture."

After the Civil War came the development of "Swedish gymnastics." No sooner had classes resumed after the conflict than the boys clamored for a gymnasium. In 1869 the Trustees at last heeded the plea with an appropriation of $1200 to erect a building. That there was some thought of systematic instruction is seen by the trustee vote "to assess each student one dollar per term for the use of the gymnasium, or two dollars in case a teacher should be employed." When the tiny wooden building, scarcely bigger than a shed, was finished, the Oracle said:

The Gym, so long discussed, has at last become a realized fact. The Trustees, in August, 1869, made the necessary appropriations, and President Champlin with his well known energy immediately set about the erection of the building, which was ready for occupancy when the spring term began [1870]. That the Gym meets a great want in American colleges is certain. It is in this country one of the greatest modern improvements. The pale, thin, dyspeptic student will soon be a thing of the past; the idea of true scholarship combined with a healthy body will prevail.1

No instructor was immediately employed, no apparatus was installed, and students were left free to use the gym as best they could without supervision. The only resemblance to gymnastic exercise was voluntary military drill, introduced as a result of the Civil War. A group of students formed themselves into the "Colby Rifles," drilled by an upperclassman. Rifles were furnished by the state, and the company had the reward of a place of honor in the Decoration Day parade. But most of the students cared little for organized drill, and in a few years the "Colby Rifles" disappeared from the scene. The boys preferred the laissez faire style of exercise in which the period abounded. Nevertheless campus and gymnasium were scenes of activity, each in appropriate season. President Robins' insistence on "harmonious development of body, mind and spirit" did give impetus to gymnasium use in the late 1870's, but not even he suggested that the College make it compulsory. In the early years of that decade, the gymnasium got such rough treatment that in 1875 the College agreed to repair it only if the students would form an association to prevent its further abuse. The renovation, made in 1876, caused the Oracle to say:

The Trustees, at their last annual meeting voted to rebuild the Gym. As a result we now have a fine brick building much larger than the old one, and in every way suited to student needs. It is 70 by 65 feet, with all necessary height. A fine bowling alley is connected with the main building. A rubber course for running has been put down, and other appar-
How far the College was from compulsory physical education is shown by the new provision in the 1879 rules of the Gymnasium Association that "none but members of the association will hereafter be admitted into the building." Although any student could become a member by signing the constitution, a significant number were not interested.

The long awaited apparatus consisted of four rowing machines, two chest and shoulder machines, two inclined ladders, a pair of parallel bars, a pair of breast bars, two sets of horizontal bars, a vaulting stand, two suspended rings, eight flying rings, a peg pole, a climbing pole, three climbing ropes, a striking bag, two mats, three dozen wands and a like number of Indian clubs and dumbbells.

When, in the 1890's, physical training under a faculty instructor became a curricular requirement, it is astounding to learn that it was the result of student, not faculty demand. Since 1879 the Echo had persistently called for the requirement. In 1881, welcoming the advent of an instructor for optional work in the gymnasium, the Echo said: "We believe that our efforts to establish a system of compulsory gym work will soon be rewarded." Although the reward did not come soon, it did come a dozen years later. And then what happened? Before 1900, and repeatedly in the subsequent half century, student demand was completely reversed. No sooner did the students win their struggle for compulsory gym classes than they wanted to get rid of them. For many years the most hated requirement at Colby was "P.T."

After gymnastic instruction became regularized, there was usually some link between "Gym classes" and athletics. In 1889 a public exhibition was held in the City Hall for the benefit of the Athletic Association. On a blustery February evening it drew a good audience and netted over three hundred dollars. The program included an item called "hitch and kick" and others more easily understood today, such as sophomore dumbbell drill, work on the horizontal bar, Indian club swinging, fencing, tumbling, pyramids, wand drill, and running high jump.

In 1907 President White recommended that "a physical director for men be employed at a salary of $1000, of which $200 shall be paid by the Athletic Association." When, finally, the decision was made to combine in one person the office of Director of Physical Education and Director of Athletics, that change was promoted by appeal of the alumni, not by the administration.

As long as Colby remained on the old campus near the Kennebec, its only improvements on the obsolete gymnasium of 1876 were modest remodeling within the existing walls and the building of the Field House in 1929. The latter had been intended as the first step in a campaign for a complete athletic plant, including a new gymnasium. A previous chapter has already pointed out that the decision to move to Mayflower Hill turned that campaign into one of more extensive development.

The Field House was the result of the determined zeal of the chairman of the Trustees, Herbert Wadsworth. With its glass roof, its huge interior space, its superior accommodations for basketball, and its regulation indoor track, it remained the most useful facility for athletics and physical education until the new field house was opened on Mayflower Hill.
What facilities, in toto, were gradually developed for physical training and sports on the old campus? There was the athletic field described in the Student Handbook of 1900 as "situated on the college campus by the side of the gymnasium, and containing the baseball diamond, football grounds, a quarter-mile running and bicycle track, a grandstand, and an uncovered stand." The Handbook proudly added, "The cinder track is the only one at present in the State." When a wooden grandstand was built on the west side of the field in 1885, seating three hundred persons, the Echo had remarked that the necessity of taking seats from the classrooms and returning them after games had now been eliminated.

For some time a bowling alley was maintained in the basement of the gymnasium, at one time a wooden track encircled the gym floor during the winter, and at other times basketball held sway, although the room was too small for a regulation court. Tennis courts were built, both by the College and by individual fraternities, but it was not until after 1920 that two excellent clay courts near Coburn Hall made it possible for Colby to offer facilities for the Maine Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament comparable to such courts elsewhere in the state.

In the following chapter we shall consider the development of various athletic sports at Colby. In this chapter it is appropriate that we confine our attention to athletics in general. A few words may well be said, however, about Colby's earliest competitive games. Believe it or not, the first intercollegiate sport at Colby was croquet. The game had become popular in the 1850's, and intramural contests became popular between the classes. In 1860 Colby students received an invitation from a group at Bowdoin to contend in a momentous battle at croquet on the Brunswick campus. Unfortunately we have no record of the names of the players or of the outcome of the battle, but William Smith Knowlton, who was a Colby freshman in 1860, remembered distinctly that the contest occurred.

Baseball came also in the 1860's, and the story of its development will be told later. What many Colby graduates do not know is that boat racing was a Colby sport of the 1870's. It is first mentioned in the Oracle of 1874, which lists a boat crew for each class, and two rival groups, the Colby Boat Club and the University Boat Club. There is doubt whether any of the clubs owned a regulation rowing shell, such as Harvard crews then used on the Charles River. The Colby craft were probably very simple boats, and there is evidence that the number of men in a crew did not exceed four. The scene of activity was the Messalonskee Stream, and there it continued, at least in some form of boating, into the 1880's. No Colby boathouse was ever built on the Kennebec.

The Colby Athletic Association was founded in 1881. Its purpose seems to have been chiefly to supervise the annual field day, which we shall describe in the next chapter. In 1890 the students decided to make it truly a general association, "organized for the cultivation of general athletic spirit at Colby, and for the holding of an annual field day in June, when prizes of considerable value are offered."

In 1896 the Association was placed in complete control of the athletic program. A new constitution gave it "direction and control of all athletic sports and contests, to keep in order the running track, tennis courts, and all other athletic properties, and in general to have charge of the college campus so far as its use for athletic sports is concerned." Association dues were eight dollars a year for men and three dollars for women. No student could be a member of a Colby team unless he belonged to the Association, and for nonplayers the reward for membership was free admission to all games. Much power resided in the executive committee, whose duty it was "to supervise all gymnastic exhibitions and
all athletic contests, appoint captains and managers of the teams, provide the means for carrying on athletic sports, and disburse all moneys in accordance with votes of the association."

The 1896 constitution gives us insight into the athletic program of that time. It consisted of an annual fall long-distance run (cross-country); a series of fall football games; an annual winter athletic exhibition; a tennis tournament for men and one for women; an annual bicycle meet; a spring field day; and a series of spring football games. Thus by 1896, except for the exercises in the gymnasium and the winter exhibition of gymnastic work, athletics at Colby had spread from a modest beginning in croquet to the inclusion of five sports: baseball, football, track, tennis, and bicycle racing.

It was through the Athletic Association that Colby became known as "the Blue and Gray." The official college color had long been silver gray. In its constitution of 1896, the Athletic Association declared: "The official color of the Association shall be a dark blue, corresponding to the permanent blue of Windsor and Newton's oil colors. On public occasions, when it is desirable to use the color in decorations, it shall be combined with the college color, silver gray. This use of the combined colors shall also apply to athletic uniforms."

By 1900 the alumni had come to show pronounced interests in athletics. In 1904 a committee of alumni, composed of J. F. Hill, Archer Jordan and A. F. Drummond, appeared before the Trustees with a plan to improve the athletic field at an expense of $2500, which the newly formed Colby Club proposed to raise. The committee asked the Trustees to contribute to the improvements by moving the Hersey House outside the field enclosure.

After the close of the First World War there was formed the Colby Athletic Council, which replaced the old executive committee of the association, and on that council the alumni, as well as students and faculty, awarded letters, controlled expenditures, and most important of all, appointed a graduate manager of athletics. The first person to hold that office was Robert L. Ervin, 1911, a local clothing merchant, who later became what his classmates called an "oil baron," as head of the Spring Brook Ice and Fuel Company. He was succeeded in 1920 by Prince A. Drummond, 1915. The next year saw the coming of C. Harry Edwards as head of the Department of Physical Education, under an arrangement by which that officer was supposed to take over also the duties of graduate manager of athletics. The area of authority was hazy, however, and the question often arose as to which hat Edwards was wearing and to whom he was responsible.

The Centennial of 1920 gave stimulus to many changes and improvements, and it was in the enthusiasm of the centennial year that prominent alumni determined to bring the College officially into the athletic situation. At their request the Trustees appointed a committee, which in June, 1920, made the following report:

"Your committee firmly believe in well-balanced physical training and athletics and affirm these should be recognized as an essential part of educational work. It is our opinion that the College should organize a Department of Physical Training and Athletics, and that the Faculty should make adequate provision for it in the schedule of classes. We recommend that a trained director be obtained, who is a man of education and character, competent to teach physiology and hygiene and to be held responsible for the gymnasium and the entire athletic equipment, and
who is also competent to supervise physical training and athletics and to give both general and individual training. We recommend that the Athletic Director be a member of the Faculty with voice and vote in faculty meetings. We recommend that physical training be compulsory for freshmen and sophomores.

We further recommend that there be an Alumni Governing Committee, appointed by the Trustees, who shall nominate the director, and after his appointment shall assist him in engaging coaches and supervising athletic policy. We recommend that the Director, with the Alumni Governing Committee, shall arrange a budget for each sport, and shall see that in each annual budget of the association a definite margin is included to apply to the retirement of the present debt. Finally, we recommend that the Trustees appropriate annually the sum of $5000, to be expended under the direction of the Alumni Governing Committee for the salary of the director, compensation for coaches, and upkeep of the gymnasium and equipment.

Not until those recommendations were accepted did any athletic coach at Colby hold a position on the faculty. The first to have that distinction was Michael J. Ryan, coach of track. The decision to employ a full-time director raised questions as to Ryan's status. What were his duties as Instructor of Athletics? What would be his relation to a new director? In order to clarify the situation, the Trustees voted to accept the plan proposed by the alumni, "with the understanding that Mr. Ryan is to be retained in some capacity by the Athletic Council and that his salary shall form part of the appropriation of $5000." When concern was expressed about where the proposed $5000 would come from, Charles Seaverns generously offered to contribute $3500 a year for an indefinite period, to be expended for the Department of Physical Education.

The Alumni Governing Committee was composed of Archer Jordan, Frank Alden, Herbert Wadsworth, Robert Ervin, A. F. Drummond, and Charles Seaverns. They selected as the new director C. Harry Edwards, a young graduate of Springfield College, who began his Colby duties in September, 1921. Soon thereafter the committee went out of existence, and its place was taken by the Athletic Council, composed, as we have already stated, of students, faculty and alumni members.

No man could at once take control of Colby athletics. Students and alumni had been too long in the saddle. Financial responsibility also remained confused for several years. "He who pays the piper calls the tune," and coaches were paid wholly or in part by the Athletic Council. Some were employed directly by the Council without consultation with the Director. It became difficult to tell what were a coach's responsibilities and to whom he was responsible. Soon after his appointment Edwards was fortunate to have the assistance of two men, both employed by the Alumni Council, and both so competent and so loyal to the College that they remained on the staff long after Edwards himself had gone. Edward C. Roundy and Ellsworth Millett won the lasting gratitude of Colby men for their sterling character, their competent coaching, and their sincere interest in boys. Roundy was Colby's first year-round coach, handling football in the fall, hockey in the winter, and baseball in the spring. Millett, first employed as assistant to Roundy, soon became head coach of hockey, developed freshman teams in other sports, and became so well-known and so fondly loved by all the graduates that he was the natural choice for Alumni Secretary, a position he still honored in 1960.

If Edwards' responsibility for athletics was somewhat hazy, there was no
doubt about his supremacy in the formal program of physical education. "P.T." classes had long been unpopular, and Edwards' determination to enforce impartially the requirement of attendance at those classes did not increase their popularity. In the years immediately following the coming of Edwards, the faculty records are filled with actions taken on his instigation. First, the faculty agreed to give one semester hour of credit for each required term of physical education, so that no man could receive the Colby degree without four properly accredited hours in that subject. In April, 1923, Edwards complained that 24 men of the junior class were deficient from one to three semesters in the requirement. The Committee on Athletics and the Committee on Standing investigated the cases, supported Edwards vigorously, and demanded that each delinquent must make up his deficiencies before he could receive the degree. As a result several men did not get their diplomas until a year or more after the graduation of their class.

As we have pointed out in a previous chapter, President Franklin Johnson had no sooner taken office than he became determined to straighten out the tangled web of athletic responsibility. At the first Trustee meeting after his election, a meeting held in Portland in November, 1929, Johnson reported to the Board:

The Department of Physical Education has presented a distressing state of disorganization. Professor Edwards is the only one with academic rank appointed by your Board. Coach Ryan was appointed by my predecessor and seems to have been given faculty rank without vote of the Board. His salary is paid by the College. Coach Roundy has been appointed and paid by the Athletic Council. The salary of Coach Millett has been paid one-half by the Athletic Council and one-half by the College. That such a group of men have worked harmoniously, as indeed they have, is nothing short of marvelous. But the possibilities that might emerge from such a situation make its continuance unthinkable. There is no evidence of a comprehensive, clear-cut program of physical education, in which each of those men has a part. Only one of them regards himself as responsible to the Trustees through the President. Three of them recognize no definite responsibility to the Professor of Physical Education. From this time forward, if you so approve, each of the other men will be responsible to Professor Edwards, as head of the department, and he in turn will be responsible to the Trustees through the President. The Athletic Council has agreed to turn over to the Treasurer of the College the money formerly paid directly to coaches by the Council. The salaries of all persons serving on the staff of Physical Education and Athletics will be paid henceforth by the Treasurer of the College.

The Trustees gave hearty approval to Johnson's fait accompli, and the new President thus succeeded in taking the first important step toward college control of athletic policy. All coaches were placed on a full-time basis, with duties in physical education as well as athletic sports. But the action went only part way. It did not bring control of athletic finances into the hands of the College Treasurer; it did not integrate health and infirmary services into the physical program; and the coaches were not given faculty status. The catalogue no longer carried Ryan's name in the faculty list, but placed it and the names of other coaches under the heading "Athletic" at the end of a list of "other College Officers."
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he was the natural choice for Alumni Secretary, a position he still honored in 1960.

If Edwards' responsibility for athletics was somewhat hazy, there was no
doubt about his supremacy in the formal program of physical education. "P.T." classes had long been unpopular, and Edwards' determination to enforce impartially the requirement of attendance at those classes did not increase their popularity. In the years immediately following the coming of Edwards, the faculty records are filled with actions taken on his instigation. First, the faculty agreed to give one semester hour of credit for each required term of physical education, so that no man could receive the Colby degree without four properly accredited hours in that subject. In April, 1923, Edwards complained that 24 men of the junior class were deficient from one to three semesters in the requirement. The Committee on Athletics and the Committee on Standing investigated the cases, supported Edwards vigorously, and demanded that each delinquent must make up his deficiencies before he could receive the degree. As a result several men did not get their diplomas until a year or more after the graduation of their class.

As we have pointed out in a previous chapter, President Franklin Johnson had no sooner taken office than he became determined to straighten out the tangled web of athletic responsibility. At the first Trustee meeting after his election, a meeting held in Portland in November, 1929, Johnson reported to the Board:

The Department of Physical Education has presented a distressing state of disorganization. Professor Edwards is the only one with academic rank appointed by your Board. Coach Ryan was appointed by my predecessor and seems to have been given faculty rank without vote of the Board. His salary is paid by the College. Coach Roundy has been appointed and paid by the Athletic Council. The salary of Coach Millett has been paid one-half by the Athletic Council and one-half by the College. That such a group of men have worked harmoniously, as indeed they have, is nothing short of marvelous. But the possibilities that might emerge from such a situation make its continuance unthinkable. There is no evidence of a comprehensive, clear-cut program of physical education, in which each of those men has a part. Only one of them regards himself as responsible to the Trustees through the President. Three of them recognize no definite responsibility to the Professor of Physical Education. From this time forward, if you so approve, each of the other men will be responsible to Professor Edwards, as head of the department, and he in turn will be responsible to the Trustees through the President. The Athletic Council has agreed to turn over to the Treasurer of the College the money formerly paid directly to coaches by the Council. The salaries of all persons serving on the staff of Physical Education and Athletics will be paid henceforth by the Treasurer of the College.

The Trustees gave hearty approval to Johnson's fait accompli, and the new President thus succeeded in taking the first important step toward college control of athletic policy. All coaches were placed on a full-time basis, with duties in physical education as well as athletic sports. But the action went only part way. It did not bring control of athletic finances into the hands of the College Treasurer; it did not integrate health and infirmary services into the physical program; and the coaches were not given faculty status. The catalogue no longer carried Ryan's name in the faculty list, but placed it and the names of other coaches under the heading "Athletic" at the end of a list of "other College Officers."
The complete change was finally made in 1934, when, following Edwards' resignation, President Johnson brought to Colby the man who would make the department the comprehensive, efficient organization it had become by 1960, for by that time Gilbert F. "Mike" Loebs, Professor of Health and Physical Education, had made the department a model for other colleges to emulate. By 1952 Loebs' duties had become so heavy that it was decided to create the position of Director of Athletics. That officer would be responsible to Loebs, the department head, but would relieve him of making athletic schedules and other details, including supervision of intercollegiate sports. To the new position was appointed the popular and successful coach of basketball, Leon P. Williams.

On April 14, 1934, the Trustees, on recommendation of President Johnson and the Alumni Council, voted to create a Department of Health and Physical Education, to include not only the program of physical training and athletic sports in both divisions of the College, but also direction of the medical and nursing services in both divisions. The new program called for the head of the department to nominate the college physician, appoint nurses, supervise infirmary services, and be fundamentally responsible for the care of student health. It required also that he develop and supervise a program of intramural sports; that he be Director of Athletics, responsible for schedules and equipment; that he assign each member of the staff to some clearly defined duty in each of the fall, winter, and spring terms. Every member of the staff was given faculty rank. All athletic finances would henceforth be handled by the College Treasurer and the Athletic Council would be only advisory.

Although athletic eligibility did not become a faculty issue until after 1900, it had attracted attention as early as 1886. In that year the baseball associations of the four Maine colleges were wrangling about a so-called "ringer" at one institution, and during the ensuing two decades accusations were hurled at every one of the four colleges. Probably at none of the four was the record entirely clean. As it became increasingly evident that the pot was calling the kettle black, faculties began to set up eligibility rules. They were prompted not only to preserve the good name of their college, but also to improve academic standards.

In April, 1913, the Colby faculty voted "to adopt a plan for keeping the members of the athletic squads at work in their studies, in accordance with which the several instructors are to report to the Athletic Committee the names of students who are not doing good work." In June of the same year it was decided that any student having such academic deficiencies as degraded him to a lower class should be ineligible for one year. In the following April, three students were suspended from college for violating the eligibility rule. In May the faculty bore down on students involved in a tennis tournament held without faculty approval. The time had now come when the faculty must approve athletic schedules as well as set standards of eligibility. In December the faculty declared that their approval of an athletic schedule did not permit any student to be absent from a semester examination.

In the progressive spirit of the centennial celebration, Rex Dodge, 1906, proposed an athletic code, which was enthusiastically adopted by alumni, faculty and students, and which received official approval of the Trustees on June 26, 1920.

Believing that athletics are helpful or harmful directly in proportion as they are conducted according to the highest ideals of sportsmanship,
we, the students, faculty and alumni of Colby College, signify our desire and determination to do all in our power to maintain the highest possible ideals in the conduct of athletic sports.

We believe that such standards of scholarship should be maintained as will admit to membership on athletic teams only those men who can take part in the intercollegiate contests without lowering the recognized scholastic standards of the College. We approve the eligibility rules of the Maine Intercollegiate Athletic Association, and we denounce as unfriendly to our College any act by student or alumnus which shall result in any violation of the spirit or letter of those rules, or which will result in the tendering of help to any athletic student which he would not receive except for his athletic tendencies.

We believe that our athletic sports can be successful only when individual interests give place to loyalty to the College; that no student is worthy of a place on one of our teams who is unwilling to observe so strictly the rule of training that no act of his can possibly jeopardize the team's chances of success. We express our conviction that the standard of manhood at Colby is influenced greatly by the individual ideal in sport, and we desire that the greatest honor shall be extended to the student who manifests the highest type of sportsmanship rather than personal powers alone. We are firmly convinced that intercollegiate athletic rivalry is desirable when conducted as a means to an end, but we would avoid the spirit of winning for itself alone. We stand firmly behind our athletic sports and will do everything possible, in conformity with the foregoing principles, to make them successful.

In 1923 the Colby Athletic Council voted "that the Maine State Series eligibility rules shall be effective in all games in all sports at Colby College, and that this ruling shall prevail beginning with the baseball season in 1923." In the following year the Council voted to exclude freshmen in their first semester from all intercollegiate teams. The later freshman rule, excluding freshmen from varsity teams throughout the year, did not go into effect until 1940.

In their eagerness to enforce the Centennial Code, the faculty at first adopted rules demanding that every member of an athletic team must stand at all times above passing in each subject, with the result that men were withdrawn from teams often on the eve of an important game. From week to week no coach knew what men he might lose over night. Meanwhile daily recitations were becoming less important, and more emphasis was placed on hour examinations and prepared papers. It was therefore decided to base athletic eligibility upon standing only at the middle and the end of each semester. The new rules adopted in 1929 declared:

1. He is a special student.
2. He is not carrying at least 15 semester hours.
3. He has more than two deficiencies, of which only one shall have been incurred in the preceding semester.
4. He has received more than two warnings at mid-semester, in which case he shall be ineligible for the remainder of the semester.
5. He has been permanently degraded to a lower class, in which case the ineligibility shall continue for one year.

6. He is a transfer student with full credits, for he is thus affected by so-called "one year rule."  

7. He is a freshman who has previously attended another college; in which case, however, he shall be eligible to representation open only to freshmen.

8. He is on probation, in which case the ineligibility shall be co-extensive with the probation.

The 1929 rules prevailed until 1933, when vigorous protest was registered against declaring men ineligible in the middle of the basketball and hockey seasons, as sometimes happened as a result of the first semester marks. On March 8, 1933, the faculty therefore voted to modify the rules by declaring that "ineligibility announced at the close of the first semester shall take effect one month after the registration day of the second semester."

With minor changes the 1933 eligibility rules prevailed until the Second World War. The Gray Book (the handbook of student regulations) was not published in 1942 or 1943, but in 1944 it said:

Like most colleges, Colby has in normal times strictly enforced eligibility rules governing the right of a student to represent the College in extra-curricular activities. Because the war has caused suspension of intercollegiate athletics at Colby and has eliminated other trips by student groups, all previous eligibility rules are suspended. For the duration of the war the customary rules are waived, and any regular student is eligible to participate in organized extra-curricular activities unless he or she is on probation.

When normal college activities were resumed after the war, the faculty decided to continue the wartime policy in respect to eligibility. President Johnson had long argued that the standards of retention should be sufficiently high to grant to any student allowed to remain in college the right to participate in any activity, but it was not until 1947, after President Bixler had been for five years in office, that the policy which Johnson had advocated as early as 1935 was eventually adopted. The Gray Book then announced:

Colby has no eligibility rules. Recognizing athletics and other activities as a legitimate part of college life, Colby holds every student registered for a full program of academic courses to be eligible to participate in all college activities, unless he or she is on probation.

In 1948 the final clause was eliminated, and even students on probation were declared eligible. The Committee on Standing and the dean of the appropriate division were empowered, however, to make non-participation in activities a requisite for continuance in college, if in their opinion a case should so demand. In 1953 students on probation were henceforth not excused from classes for any extra-curricular participation. Whether students on probation should be allowed to participate at all remained a moot point, and in 1960 the faculty was considering a return to the 1947 rule.
Colby has faithfully observed the eligibility rules of the various state and national athletic organizations in which it has from time to time held membership. The College has especially cooperated in the development of the Maine Intercollegiate Athletic Association, which supervises the schedules and the general regulations concerning athletic relations among the four oldest degree-granting colleges in Maine.

In the early days very little money was spent on physical education and athletics. As late as 1893, after football had been introduced, the total expense of operating all the teams did not exceed $1500. Even in 1910, when the Athletic Association was paying for part-time, seasonal coaches, all the costs did not reach $3500. By 1936 the appropriation had risen to nearly $17,000, not including the salaries of the coaches, all of whom had been made regular members of the faculty. Six years later, in 1942, the appropriation was more than $21,000. In 1951, when all athletic activity had been removed to Mayflower Hill and enrollment had increased markedly, $32,000 was needed to carry on the program, and in subsequent years it mounted steadily until in 1959 the amount was $48,734—three thousand dollars more than the total for faculty salaries in 1920. If the 1959 athletic appropriation were compared with faculty salaries in 1919, the difference would be even more striking, because 1920 was the year when faculty members received an unprecedented salary increase of forty percent.

How did the white mule come to be the Colby mascot? The polar bear of Bowdoin and the black bear of the University of Maine antedated the Colby mule by several years, and it is quite possible that the Bates bobcat also came earlier. When this historian was a student no one seemed to consider that any such thing as a mascot was needed for Colby athletic teams.

Joseph Coburn Smith, 1924, was responsible for many innovations at Colby, both in his student days and in his later official capacity as Director of Public Relations and editor of the Alumnus. In his senior year Joe was editor of the Colby Echo, just as Frank Johnson had been thirty-three years earlier. Like Johnson, Joe was interested in the honest promotion of athletics. On November 7, 1923, Joe published an editorial suggesting that, because Colby football teams so often upset predictions of the newspaper dopesters, Colby no longer appeared as a "dark horse," but ought to be symbolized by a "white mule."

Heeding Joe Smith's advice, a group of students got busy, located a white mule on a Kennebec farm, borrowed the animal for the Bates game on Armistice Day in 1923, and placed the animal, properly caparisoned in blue and gray, at the head of the band and student body as they marched on to the field.

Colby had already beaten Bowdoin and Maine that year, and only the Bates game lay between Colby and the state championship. The new mascot proved effective. Colby defeated Bates 9 to 6, Ben Soule kicking the winning field goal and Bill Millett's punts repeatedly setting back the Bates onslaught. That was enough to make Joe Smith's suggestion permanent. Thirty-five years later the Colby mascot was still the white mule.

Women had been enrolled in Colby College for fourteen years before any clamor to provide them with physical exercise, or any such opportunities as were afforded the men by the gymnasium, reached the columns of the campus news-
paper. It was not until 1887 that the *Echo* espoused the cause of physical education for women.

Since we have so freely thrown open our doors to coeducation, the wants of the fair ones must not be overlooked. The young ladies need exercise as much as do the young men, and they have come to realize the need of a gym. They are, however, very moderate in their demands, and only ask for a little simple apparatus, such as dumbbells, Indian clubs, and wands. It seems as if their petition is worthy of more immediate consideration than "Wait until Mrs. ------ dies, then perhaps you can have a gym." We do not wonder that the young ladies feel a little discomforted on being invited by the Prudential Committee to wait for some dead woman's shoes.⁸

Before the opening of Foss Hall in 1904 the women had little opportunity for any physical exercise except croquet and tennis. It was unthinkable that they should be admitted within the sacred portals of the men's gymnasium, and they had no gymnasium of their own. President Nathaniel Butler, however, having appointed Mary Sawtelle as the first Dean of Women, heeded her plea for a physical instructor as early as 1898. Arrangements were made for a common instructor with Coburn and the use of a room at that institute. Miss Margaret Koch of Chicago thus became the first teacher of women's physical education at Colby. She started her work in 1898 by being not only a student in certain college classes and an instructor at Coburn, but in her college appointment wearing the two hats of elocution and physical education. That combination was indeed not unusual; it was quite in keeping with precedent appointments in the Men's Division. Since 1889 the man in charge of the gymnasium had carried the title "Instructor of Elocution and Gymnastics." President Butler altered Miss Koch's title a bit by calling her "Instructor of Physical Culture and Expression."

After Miss Koch left in 1902, physical instruction for the women was in abeyance for three years, because the arrangement with Coburn could not be continued and no room at the College was available. The building of Foss Hall, with a planned gymnasium in the basement, made it possible to add a full-time person to the staff. Dean Berry and President White agreed that health and physical education should be combined, and they were fortunate to secure the services of Dr. Mary S. Croswell as Resident Physician and Director of Physical Training for Women. Dr. Croswell remained for four years and laid the groundwork for what eventually became a strong department. It is possible that the insistence of Dean Runnals, in later years, that improved attention be given both to the health and the physical training of College girls may have been due in no small measure to her having been a Colby student when Dr. Croswell was in charge of the program.

Dr. Croswell was succeeded in 1909 by Miss Elizabeth Bass as Director of Physical Training for Women, but she made no pretense to medical training, and unfortunately many years would elapse before physical exercise would again be associated with health and care of the sick. Between 1910 and 1913 Miss Bass combined her instructional duties with those of Dean of Women. Her successors until the effective reorganization worked out by Dean Runnals in 1922 were Josephine Crowell, 1913-14; Florence Hustings, 1914-16; Florence Emery, 1917-20.

No person of faculty rank gave physical instruction to the women from 1920 to 1922. Meanwhile the new dean, Ninetta Runnals, was working for a sound
and permanent program. She wanted a woman of mature years and thorough training to build up a physical program based on scientific instruction, modern methods of gymnasium work, and a broadening intramural program of competitive games. She found that person in Miss Corinne Van Norman, who came as Instructor in Hygiene and Physical Education in 1922, had her title changed to Instructor in Health and Physical Education when the department of that name was organized under Professor Loebs in 1934, and retired in 1939 after seventeen years of competent service.

By 1938 increased enrollment called for a second person on the staff, and Miss Van Norman was then joined by Miss Marjorie Duffy. After her marriage to Philip Bither of the Modern Language Department, Miss Duffy continued as a member of the department until 1941. In later years she was frequently called upon as a substitute instructor, as ski instructor, or in some other capacity, until in 1957 she returned to the department as a full-time teacher of physical education and was still serving in that capacity in 1960.

In 1940 there came to Colby, in charge of physical education for women the woman who was to have the longest continuous tenure since the program had been started in 1898. Miss Janet Marchant began as instructor in 1940, was promoted to assistant professor in 1946, and to associate professor in 1957. After twenty years at Colby she was still in active service in 1960. By that time she had two assistants, Mrs. Bither and Faith Gulick. Since 1934 the entire program of physical education and athletics had been coordinated into a single department, encompassing both the men's and the women's divisions, headed by Professor Gilbert F. Loebs.

In 1921 was organized the Women's Health League to cooperate with the newly organized Department of Hygiene and Physical Education for Women in the required and elective courses and in the program of games and exhibitions. Each class elected a health officer. Dean Runnals explained, "This league differs substantially from an athletic association. The athletic work is merely one phase of its activities."

Long before the coming of Miss Van Norman, even before Miss Koch arrived as the first gymnasium instructor, Colby women had not been entirely denied athletic games. As early as 1893 there was a "Ladies Tennis Association," and as early as 1880 the girls were playing croquet. The first mention of women's basketball was in 1897, when juniors beat sophomores in a two-game series. In 1898, the year when Miss Koch arrived, the Class of 1901 took the women's basketball championship. Those certainly were not high scoring days, because 1901's scores against the three other classes were 8 to 7, 10 to 2, and 7 to 6.

Women's sports were latent during the new century's first decade. Annual issues of the *Oracle* were entirely silent on the subject. But after the Class of 1913 entered college, interest was reawakened. Under the stimulus of Miss Bass, basketball, tennis and drill teams gained enough prominence to rate two pages in the *Oracle*. Two women, both in the employ of the College forty years afterward, were prominent in those years, for Eva Macomber Kyes was captain of 1913's basketball team, and Phyllis St. Clair Fraser won the goal-throwing contest. In 1914 another woman whose husband was for many years on the faculty entered the athletic scene, when Ethel Merriam Weeks was elected "Head of Sports."

In 1912 Miss Bass and Eva Macomber attended a meeting at Smith College out of which developed the Eastern Association of Physical Education for College
Women. That association is now part of a great national body and is closely affiliated with the Athletic Federation of College Women.

No reader who has lived through the past forty years needs to be reminded of the change in women's recreational costumes. Considerable yardage separates the modern bikini from the bathing suits of 1910. Bulging bloomers and long black stockings characterized the gymnasium uniforms, but as late as 1920 President Roberts forbade the girls to cross College Avenue clad in those outfits. What he would say about the shorts-clad tennis players of today can be imagined.

By 1930 field hockey had become popular, volleyball was receiving attention, and women were becoming interested in winter sports. In 1936 was organized the Women's Athletic Association, controlling the intramural program in field hockey, tennis, basketball, volleyball, and archery. The Association conducted a Fall Picnic for freshmen.

In 1936, several years before any building on the new site was ready for occupancy, the women participated in a winter carnival held on Mayflower Hill, competing with women invited from Bates, Maine, and University of New Hampshire. A skating rink was opened behind Foss Hall. The next year saw the introduction of softball and fencing, and there began the practice of "after dinner coffees" to honor team and individual winners in all sports. Colby women are proud of the fact that they have never had a program of intercollegiate contests, as have the men. Miss Janet Marchant, who in 1960 was still Associate Professor of Health and Physical Education and director of the women's program, investigated, on request of this historian, the long history of women's sports at Colby. Concerning the persistent stand against intercollegiate competition, she wrote:

As de facto coeducation gradually replaced de jure coordination at Colby, did men and women students ever participate in the same athletic teams? Surprisingly the answer is Yes. In one intercollegiate sport, and only one, Colby boys and Colby girls together represented the College in contests with other colleges. That one sport was yacht racing.
CHAPTER XLV

Playing the Game

The previous chapter has recounted the development of athletic policy at Colby. Let us now give attention to the various organized sports.

BASEBALL

John Moody, 1867, always insisted that he was the man who introduced baseball at Colby. When the writer of this history was teaching at Hebron Academy, Moody was an aged resident of the town, retired after a distinguished career as principal of Hebron and Bridgton academies and of Edward Little High School in Auburn. Entering Colby in 1863 at the age of sixteen, Moody was too young to be drafted into the Civil War. He told the writer that in his sophomore year he saw a game of baseball played in Portland, secured a ball and bat, and provided informal games on the campus in the spring of 1865.

So much for the unofficial tradition. So far as the official record tells us, organized baseball began at Colby in the spring of 1867, when a team was formed under the captaincy of Reuben Wesley Dunn of the Class of 1868. His team and Charles Foster's in the following year played only three games each, and the ensuing years saw only sporadic interest until 1875, since when there has been no lapse of organized baseball except for two years during the Second World War. It was the son of a famous Colby man who began that uninterrupted record, for Josiah Drummond, Jr., 1877, was captain of the team in both his sophomore and his junior years. Other captains who became prominent alumni were Hugh Chaplin, 1880; Forrest Goodwin, 1887; Arthur J. Roberts, 1890; Oliver Hall, 1893; John Coombs, 1906; Charles Dwyer, 1908; and Ernest Simpson, 1916.

It is generally known that gloves, mitts and masks were not used in the early days, but what is not so generally remembered is the method of the pitcher's delivery. C. B. Stetson, 1881, recalled:

In 1877 nine balls instead of four were allowed before a batter could get a base on balls. Underhand pitching was the vogue, and the pitcher was required to swing his hand below his hip; otherwise it was a "foul pitch," several instances of which put the pitcher out of the game. The catcher had no protector, mask or mitt.1

Another instance of the simplicity of early baseball was remembered by William A. Smith, 1891. A Waterville boy, born in 1868, Smith attended the campus games before he was a student in the College. At one such game in
1880, a batter hit a long ball into the grass north of the Gymnasium. One defense player after another joined in fruitless search. Even with the help of the offense the ball could not be found. It was an important intercollegiate contest, Colby against Bowdoin. "Hod" Nelson, the local horse breeder and later the owner of the world champion trotter "Nelson," was at the game with one of his fast horses hitched to a sulky. Hod jumped into the seat, raced the horse down town, purchased a ball and sped back to the field, so that the game could be resumed. A state series championship game in 1880 was being played with only one ball.

The Maine Intercollegiate Baseball Association was formed in 1883, at a time when Colby was supreme at the game, for Colby won the state championship every year from 1881 to 1884, and again in 1886, 1887, 1890, and 1891. In 1883 the Echo said, "Our boys have had the honor of breaking in new uniforms." Perhaps the new uniforms were responsible for the team's spotless records, because that year Colby not only took the state championship, but also won every game on its ten-game schedule. The University of Maine was not yet a member of the league, the state series being fought out by Bates, Bowdoin and Colby. When it was over, the Echo said, "The scene after the final game with Bowdoin [Colby 3, Bowdoin 2], the reception at Waterville with horns, bells and fireworks, and the banquet at the Elmwood will long be remembered."

In the early days the team had no coach. Pleading for a gymnasium instructor in 1887, the Echo said: "A capable gymnasium man would be an excellent coach to the nine." The first coach was Harley Rawson in 1907. Some of his remembered successors were "Baggy" Allen of Fairfield and Fred Parent of Red Sox fame, before the long, enviable record of "Eddie" Roundy from 1925 to 1953. Roundy was succeeded by one of John Coombs' protégés, John Winkin.

In 1888 the team again sported new uniforms. The Echo proudly described the outfit.

The new suits for the nine are a great improvement over the old ones. The pants and shirts are very near the college gray, with hats to match, blue stockings and regulation shoes. The hats are trimmed with blue, and the word Colby in navy blue adorns the front of the shirts.2

In 1892, when William L. Bonney was captain of the varsity nine, there was a second nine captained by W. E. Lombard, and each class fielded a team. The varsity pitcher was Charles P. Barnes, later a justice of the Maine Supreme Court, while the President of the Colby Baseball Association was Frank Nichols, for many years publisher of the Bath (Me.) Times.

The 1893 constitution of the Baseball Association provided that any student of the College could become a member by paying the annual dues of five dollars. Besides the usual officers found in student organizations, the Colby BAA included a team manager, a captain of the first nine, a captain of the second nine, a scorer and a sub-scorer. Note how the players were chosen:

The Board of Directors of the Association and each captain shall together choose the players of each nine; the captain's vote counting three, and the vote of each director counting one.

Colby's most famous baseball player was John Wesley Coombs, 1906, star pitcher of Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics from 1906 to 1916. In college,
Jack Coombs pitched Colby to the state championship in 1902 and 1906, and in the latter season lost only three of seventeen games. In junior and senior years his catcher was Charles Dwyer, 1908, who afterward spent a lifetime of teaching and coaching at Hebron Academy and became known as the Grand Old Man of Hebron. Dwyer was said to be the only man, in Coombs's student days, who could hold that pitcher's fast ball.

Dr. J. Fred Hill, redoubtable friend of Colby athletics, played an important part in getting Jack his chance with Connie Mack. Pulling every wire he knew, including Mack's acquaintance with Jack's brother Tom, Hill succeeded in getting a Philadelphia tryout for the Colby pitcher. It resulted in a contract, and on July 5, 1906, Coombs pitched his first big league game, beating the Washington Senators three to nothing. It was in that first year with Mack that Coombs pitched his famous 24-inning game against the Red Sox in Boston, on September 1, 1906. With the teams tied one to one at the end of the ninth, the game went on for four hours and 47 minutes. Not until the 24th inning did Philadelphia get three more runs, while in their half of the inning the Red Sox were held scoreless by Coombs.

Jack's banner year was 1911, when he pitched 377 innings in 40 games, winning 28. That year the Athletics were opposed for the World Series by the New York Giants with their renowned pitcher, Christie Mathewson. He and Coombs faced each other in the third game of the series. After a terrific pitchers' battle that lasted eleven innings, the Athletics won three to two. Coombs participated in three World Series, 1910, 1911, and 1916—the last as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers. He is one of very few players who ever pitched all nine innings of three games in a single World Series.

Jack Coombs ended his professional playing career in 1918. He tried his hand at managing the Phillies of the National League, but soon turned to college coaching. For more than a quarter of a century, until his retirement in 1956, Jack was the successful and beloved coach of baseball at Duke University. On his Texas farm, planning strategy for the diamond and writing several books on the sport, Jack lived in happy retirement until his death in 1958.

Throughout the years Colby's record in baseball has been superior. In State Series competition, she has won 329 games, lost 271, and tied 5. Out of 84 state championships awarded since 1881 (there were several years when no series was played) Colby has won 25 and tied 7; Bowdoin 19 and tied 7; Bates 15 and tied 2; Maine 10 and tied 6. Under Eddie Roundy, Colby either tied or won in five consecutive years, 1931 through 1935; and under John Winkin, a protege of Coombs at Duke, there were four consecutive years of championship, 1956 through 1959.

When Colby moved to Mayflower Hill, plans were at once made for a superior baseball diamond to honor Jack Coombs. The first game played on the new field, on May 8, 1949, was a state series contest against Bowdoin, which resulted in a victory for Colby by the close score of two to one. The diamond was dedicated as Coombs Field on June 9, 1951, in the presence of that honored baseball veteran. It was Jack's last appearance at Colby.

Football

The first mention of football in any Colby publication occurred in 1886, when in its issue of November 12 the Echo said:
We need fall athletics of some kind. In the spring we have our field
day, our baseball games, and the perennial lawn tennis. A desirable
fall sport can be found in football. It is the general impression that foot­
ball is a rough and dangerous game, and even our stalwart men who daily
whack a polo ball in the gym shrink from a football contest. But all
who have seen the game scientifically played must acknowledge its
beauties. We hope that by another fall we shall see football at Colby.

The next autumn the Echo lamented that attempts to start the game at Colby
had fallen flat. It said: "A one-sided game between seniors and sophomores,
characterized chiefly by ignorance of the rules, is the sum total of football history
here this fall."

Football continued to be an intramural sport from 1887 until the formation
of the first varsity team in 1892. An earlier attempt to form such a team in 1888
had proved abortive. Another attempt was made in 1891, as indicated by a com­
ment in the Echo.

The organization of an eleven by the sophomore class was greeted as a
step toward a college eleven. Class teams practiced daily, and the advo­
cates of the game were highly encouraged. But again our football pros­
pects have undergone a serious blow. The partially arranged game with
the Maine State College has been canceled. One step has, however,
been taken. The boys have seen a football and have discovered that it
is not such a formidable thing as they had anticipated. Next year should
see a Colby eleven in the field.

The Echo did not have to wait until 1892 to report a game of football played
by a Colby team. It could not make that report with any thrill of pride, for Colby's
first football game was played on November 7, 1891, against Cony High School
of Augusta, and the high school team won by a score of 10 to 0. On that
first varsity team the captain was S. R. Robinson, and other well remembered
players were Archer Jordan, Walter Gray, and Cyrus Stimson.

The year 1892 marked the beginning of intercollegiate football at Colby,
with Robinson still captain of the team. Colby's first game with another college
had Bowdoin as the opponent on October 15, 1892, when Colby went down to
a resounding 56 to 0 defeat. On October 29 came the first Colby football victory,
when the team beat Maine 12 to 0. A return match with Bowdoin was played
on November 5, when the Waterville boys held the Brunswick eleven to a score
of 22 to 9. The Maine Intercollegiate Football League was formed in 1893.
Colby defeated Maine 30 to 4, beat Bates 4 to 0, but lost to Bowdoin 42 to 4.

In the fall of 1894 there came to Colby from Hebron Academy the only man
who ever captained Colby football teams for three successive years, Clayton Brooks.
Named to the captaincy in his sophomore year, Brooks stood six feet, weighed
225 pounds, was fast on his feet and was a powerful blocker. In that year, 1895,
Brooks's team won two games from Maine, 56 to 0, and 18 to 6; lost one to
Bates, 6 to 0; and lost two to Bowdoin, 6 to 0, and 5 to 0.

In Brooks's second year as captain, 1896, Colby held Bowdoin to a 6 to 6
tie in the game at Waterville, took two games from Maine and another from Bates.
Then in their captain's senior year, 1897, Colby for the first time beat Bowdoin
12 to 0, but was able to do no more than tie Bates 6 to 6. Since 1893 Bowdoin
had been undisputed champion, but in 1897 Colby and Bates divided the honors.
A number of interesting features accompanied those early games. No one had worried much about paid attendance at baseball contests; the home team simply passed the hat and took what it could get. But football, with expensive equipment, demanded better financing. So a high wooden fence was built along the west side of the field to make paid admission feasible. The equipment thus purchased included uniforms of canvas with very little padding, all on the outside. Because no helmets were used, players allowed their hair to grow long to give their heads some protection. They did wear shin guards. There were no complicated plays, each man being supposed to take care of the man opposite him. No tackling was allowed below the knees and no forward passes. Any man removed from the game could not return, and as a result most players stayed through the game unless seriously hurt. Scoring too was different: a touchdown counted five points, a goal after touchdown one point, and a field goal five points. Until 1896 a touchdown had counted only four points. It was the heyday of the flying wedge, a mass play as effective as the Greek phalanx, and one that could be broken up only by diving in and grabbing legs at the risk of being trampled by the whole wedge. The dangerous device was outlawed in 1897. Soon afterward the hurdle was also banned. For that play the center sometimes wore a leather harness to protect his back when a light-weight quarterback used it as a perch from which to launch a dive through the air across the enemy line.

Although Colby tied Bowdoin for the championship in 1908 it was not until the following year that the Waterville College won its first clear title. In both 1908 and 1909 the captain was one of Colby's greatest athletes, Ralph Good. A brilliant backfield runner, a baseball pitcher, and a dash man in track, Good was an all-around athlete who could star at any sport to which he gave his attention. This writer well remembers that football season of 1909, because it was his freshman year in college. Colby went through its seven game schedule without a single loss. In State Series play, the team defeated Bates 11 to 3, Bowdoin 12 to 5, and Maine 17 to 6.

One of Colby's finest football teams was state champion in 1914, when Paul "Ginger" Fraser was captain. Teamed with Fraser were two other brilliant backs, Eddie Cawley and Jack Lowney. Kent Royal and Tom Crossman were fast ends, and the speedy backs could have done little except for the effective line play of Ladd, Dacey, and Pendergast. In fact, when the season was over, nine members of the squad were named to the All-Maine team. They defeated Bowdoin 48 to 0, squeezed by Maine 14 to 0, and swamped Bates 61 to 0. Then they threw a scare into the strong Navy team in the season's final game at Annapolis. When the first half ended, Colby had scored three touchdowns and led the midshipmen 21 to 10. Only a swarm of fresh players against a tired Colby eleven enabled Navy finally to win 31 to 21. The New York Times said of the game: "It was one of the finest exhibitions of football ever seen at Annapolis. In the first half the brilliant running of Cawley, Lowney and Fraser quite swept the midshipmen off their feet."

Since 1914 Colby has won the State Series only four times, and it is interesting to note that its latest victories, 1958 and 1959, were the only successive years in series history when Colby won the championship both times. Except for three war years (1943 through 1945) there has been no interruption in this series since its inauguration in 1892. During that long period of 67 years (64 series) Maine won 23 and tied 3 titles, Bowdoin 14 and 7, Colby 7 and 8, Bates 7 and 2.
The new football gridiron on Mayflower Hill was first used for an intercollegiate game on September 25, 1948, when Colby defeated American International College 14 to 0. The Colby team was captained by George MacPhelamy, and was coached by Walter Holmer with the assistance of Eddie Roundy and Robert Keefe. On October 23, 1948, the field was dedicated as the Charles F. T. Seavemans Football Field, when at the first State Series game played on the Hill Colby lost to Bowdoin 28 to 0. Mr. Seavemans was present for the occasion and was presented with the ball that had been used in the first Mayflower Hill game on September 25.

Unlike baseball, football was from almost the beginning subject to coaching. The first coach, R. S. Parsons, was hired for three weeks in 1893, and his successor, Guy Murchie, was around only two weeks in 1894. Clayton Brooks came back to coach the team through most of the season of 1899, but not until 1906, when George Bankhart of Dartmouth took over, did a coach gather the squad for pre-season practice and see it through the whole schedule. After two years at the post, Bankhart was succeeded by his Dartmouth teammate Harry McDevitt, who stayed for four years and was coach of the 1909 championship team. Coach of the great 1914 team was Myron Fuller, and Roger Greene trained Eddie Cawley's 1916 eleven. Then for three years, which included the period of the First World War, the great end of Ralph Good's team, Robert "Braggo" Ervin, was the Colby coach.

As has already been noted in the previous chapter, it was in 1924 when the coach of Colby football made other than a seasonal appearance on the campus. In 1924 Eddie Roundy became a year-round coach, directing football, hockey, and baseball. Roundy fielded thirteen successive football teams from 1924 to 1936. Then from Northeastern University came Al McCoy, whose steady building of a strong team prepared the way for Nelson Nitchman to win the State Series in 1941. Bill Millett coached the team in 1942, the first year of the Second World War, and took it over again in 1945 when the war had ended. Then for one year Daniel Lewis left the newly created admissions office to coach the football team. After his one unsuccessful year he was succeeded by Walter Holmer for four years, Nelson Corey for one, and Frank Maze for four. In 1956, from a position on the athletic staff at Williams College, came Robert Clifford. Sports writers predicted that never again would Colby win a state championship; the black bear of Maine was too big and brawny and fierce. Colby simply didn't belong in the same league with the University. Bob Clifford proved the sports writers wrong. After a disastrous season in 1956, when his team lost six of its seven games, he led the 1957 squad to three wins and three losses. Then in 1958, with victory over all three state rivals, Colby won the championship, and to the astonishment of the experts, repeated in 1959. The surviving members of Ralph Good's 1909 team, who watched that 1959 Bowdoin game from seats of honor, were proudly convinced that football was still played at Colby.

**Basketball**

What has become a favorite indoor winter sport was slow to gain recognition at Colby. In light of the popularity of basketball today it is hard to believe that not until 1936 was it recognized here as a varsity intercollegiate sport. That late date is even harder to understand when we remember that basketball was a New England invention. It was Professor James Naismith of Springfield College...
who introduced the game and set up rules by which two Springfield teams first played it on January 20, 1891, using peach baskets for goals.

When intranural basketball had come to Colby in 1896, the Student Handbook said:

During 1896-97 basketball was introduced at Colby. In the fall and winter terms it is played in connection with the regular gym work in both the men's and the women's divisions. It has been enthusiastically received and several matches have been played between rival classes.

In 1902 the Handbook comment was as follows:

Class teams in basketball are organized in the fall term after the close of the football season. From these teams candidates are chosen for the varsity team, which plays games with various teams throughout the State during the winter season.

The Maine State Basketball series began in 1908, with Bowdoin not represented. At the first intercollegiate championship game ever played in Lewiston, Colby defeated Bates 21 to 7. That was on February 9, 1908. The series lasted only a few years, because the associations at the three competing colleges would not agree to place the sport on a formal basis. Interest in the game also waned in the high schools until shortly before World War I. But throughout the second decade of the century enthusiasts for the sport persisted in attempts to revive it. In November, 1920, the Colby Athletic Council discussed "the necessity of the college basketball team's securing recognition in the state athletic council." Professor George Parmenter pointed out that basketball was nowhere looked upon as regular college sport. The general opinion of the Colby Council was registered as opposed to the recognition of the game. Informal play continued, however, and in 1921 Professor Edwards reported that games had been scheduled with Maine and Bates.

At last, in December, 1936, the Athletic Council voted to make basketball a recognized intercollegiate sport at Colby. But there was no adequate playing surface. The new Field House had been built, but it had no basketball floor and no seats. After consideration of rented facilities, such as the Winslow High School gymnasium, it was decided to lay a temporary floor in the Field House at an expense of $1125, and to erect there the temporary bleachers used on the football field. Not until January, 1938, were those facilities ready, and on the evening of January 20, Colby confronted Northeastern University in the first game played in that building.

Freshman basketball had actually preceded varsity recognition. In 1934 the Council agreed to sponsor a freshman team and approved a twelve game schedule. When an officially recognized varsity team first appeared in the winter of 1937-38, freshman recognition continued. Basketball is therefore the only major sport at Colby in which both varsity and freshman teams have consistently represented the College since the time of the first varsity team.

Coach Eddie Roundy had always been a lover of basketball and regretted that it did not find earlier acceptance at Colby. He did much to encourage it informally between his coming in 1924 and its final recognition in 1936. When a varsity team took the floor in January, 1938, it was under Roundy's coaching, because several years earlier Bill Millett had relieved Roundy of responsibility for hockey. Between 1938 and 1943, when intercollegiate basketball was suspended
during the war, Colby won two state championships (1940-41 and 1942-43) and tied twice with Maine (1939-40 and 1941-42).

In 1946 there came to Colby the man who put basketball firmly on the map. Leon P. Williams, as one of his friends put it, "lived and breathed basketball." His team won the series in 1948-49, but lost the title to Maine the following year. Then, beginning with the season of 1950-51, Colby won the state championship for eight successive years. Not until 1958-59 did the Colby season end in a championship tie. In that year the title was shared with Maine. In nineteen seasons of recorded series competition since 1937, Colby has led twelve times and has tied three times. In only four of the nineteen years has any other college held clear title.

Erection of the new field house on Mayflower Hill gave Colby the largest seating capacity of any basketball arena in Maine at that time. It was dedicated as the Herbert E. Wadsworth Field House on December 11, 1948, in memory of the former chairman of the Board of Trustees, who had been an ardent supporter of Colby sports since his graduation in 1892. Shortly before his death the Athletic Council had awarded Mr. Wadsworth a Colby "C", fitting prelude to naming the Field House for him in 1948. The dedication was marked by the first game played in the new building, a State Series contest with Maine, which Colby won 60 to 45.

So many men have stood out conspicuously on Colby basketball teams that mention of any might well be unfair to dozens omitted. It is a tribute to Coach Williams that he had a commendable habit of turning out teams rather than individual stars.

**Hockey**

Something similar to hockey was being played at Colby as early as 1887. The students had succeeded in clearing ice on the Kennebec for a rink. The *Echo* reported:

A very interesting game of polo was played on the rink Saturday evening between the Colbys and the Coburns. Although the latter entered the contest with full confidence of winning, they were wiped out by a score of 6 to 1, and evidently do not care to play against the Colbys again.3

The next winter saw the opening of a rink in a vacant lot in the city. Again the *Echo* commented:

An out-door rink has been opened downtown, lighted by electricity and furnished with waiting rooms. As long as there was good skating on the river, it had competition, but now that the river ice is covered with snow the rink is in for a lot of patronage.4

Skating, with occasional informal hockey teams, received sporadic attention until after the First World War. In 1919 there was talk of building a hockey rink, but no action. With the coming of Harry Edwards as Director of Athletics in 1921 interest was revived and hockey was accepted as an intercollegiate sport in the following year. A league was formed among the four Maine colleges and two games were played with each college. The Colby rink was built and flooded on the back campus where later the Field House stood. After two years Maine
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withdrew from the league and in 1934 Bates also abandoned the sport. For the past quarter of a century Colby and Bowdoin have been the lone defenders of hockey among the colleges of the state.

The first coach of hockey was a member of the faculty, J. R. Marsh. He was succeeded by another teacher, Professor Euclid Helie, until Eddie Roundy took over in 1925. Five years later a real hockey enthusiast and a skilled player in his own student days took over. Bill Millett made hockey a major sport at Colby.

Although the Athletic Association had recognized hockey in 1922, it was several years before the sport obtained favored status. In 1923 Professor Edwards pleaded that the Association buy a pair of hockey guards if the old ones could not be found. The appropriation for hockey was only $50. But at the end of the winter the Association voted to pay outstanding bills of the hockey season, amounting to $83.28. On April 4, 1923, the Council voted that the Association include hockey as a sponsored minor sport, provided the College would furnish a man for the upkeep of the rink. The College agreed and in the 1924 season hockey joined the accredited list with baseball, football and track.

When plans were made to build the Field House on the old campus, the College had already obtained possession of the Bangs property on College Avenue, where Colby's first infirmary for men was established. That property stretched from Main to Front streets, and the big lot behind the house offered a fine, nearby area for a hockey rink. There a well-flooded rink, surrounded by high boards, was in use for several years. But care of that rink proved so expensive and certain features of it became so unsatisfactory that by 1930 the Council was renting use of the South End Rink far down on Water Street, and there the college games were usually played until facilities were available at Mayflower Hill. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to open a rink again on the campus. An area for women's skating had been flooded behind Foss Hall in 1937. The hockey team did use that rink for practice, but not for games, in 1937, but at the end of the season there arose such a protest from the women that the team never again returned to the scene of its crime.

After the sports program had been moved to Mayflower Hill, hockey at first fared little better than it had on the old campus. After Millett's long record, coaches came and went in rapid succession: Romeo Lemieux for one year, Nelson Corey for three, Wilfred Rancourt for two, and Bernard LaLiberte for one. Then came Jack Kelley and the Alfond Arena, and hockey was at last a true major sport.

Even before Kelley had been appointed, a group of alumni were determined to secure an indoor rink. They were convinced that hockey had a permanent place in northern New England, so close to the Canadian border, where the game was exceedingly popular. But they were equally convinced that only an enclosed rink would permit regular hockey schedules. Gordon Jones, 1940, a member of the Board of Trustees, and Joe Wallace, 1945, both brilliant hockey players in their undergraduate days, sparked the movement. Harold Alfond, a Maine manufacturer who had already been a generous benefactor of the College, became interested. A stroke of inspiration prompted the proposal that the artificial rink be a community project, and that its ice be open for the use of citizens of all ages at stated hours.

It had originally been intended to have merely a protected outdoor rink. The decision for an enclosed building adjoining the Field House as fitting annex had come only when it appeared that additional funds could be obtained. When 350
tons of Warrenite had been spread on the floor, ten miles of pipes laid upon it, then 350 more tons of the asphalt mixture covered the pipes, the eagerly waiting skaters knew that completion was near. When college carpenters erected the dash boards, when the lighting had been installed, when the freezing apparatus was connected, all was at last ready. The dedication occurred on the evening of December 15, 1955, when the new structure became the Harold Alfond Arena.

Instead of the originally intended $87,000, the final cost had risen to $200,000, but all agreed that the structure was worth the money. Besides at last providing a place for uninterrupted hockey schedules, it served to cement relations between town and gown as few other projects had ever done. Not only was the rink made available to skaters, from tiny tots to aged veterans, but it also became the site for home games of the Bruins, Waterville's professional hockey club.

Except for Jack Coombs in baseball few Colby athletes have achieved national fame. One of those few was Joe Wallace, 1945, the hockey player who later joined with Gordon Jones in a campaign for the arena. He was a member of the American Olympic Hockey Team.

**Track**

The beginning of organized sports now known as Track and Field came to Colby in 1879 with the organization of an annual field day. Of course there had previously been a lot of running and jumping about the campus and an occasional class contest. In 1879 the students decided to start a Field Day Association.

In the early years the events of Field Day usually consisted of a hundred yard dash, a mile run, hurdle race, mile walk, broad jump, high jump, hop-step-and-jump, and a standing long jump. Events that would now be considered unusual, not to say eccentric, were a stilt race, a potato race, and throwing the baseball. In 1883 a 17-pound hammer was added which Tilton threw 75 feet. In that 1883 meet the referee was Professor Albion Woodbury Small, who soon would become President of the College.

The 1890's saw the addition of an important event, bicycle racing. Vehicles used were the old high-wheeled bicycles, because not until nearly the dawn of the new century did the "safety bicycle" become common. The bicycle became exceedingly popular, and the Waterville Bicycle Club enrolled many members. Despite frequent accidents, the old high wheels enlisted many college racers, and the bicycle events became features of Field Day.

In 1895 Colby entered the Maine Intercollegiate Track and Field Association, and thereafter an annual intercollegiate meet was held in rotation at the four colleges. The first meet, in 1895, was in fact held in Waterville. It was won by Bowdoin, followed by Maine, Colby and Bates in that order. In fact the Bowdoin team was so strong that it scored 99 points, while the other three colleges combined accumulated only 36 points.

Why track should turn out to be the weakest sport at Colby is not easy to explain, though perhaps the lack of a coach specifically employed for track may have something to do with the decline in recent years. Football became so prominent that it came to be the practice to engage a man as a line coach or an assistant coach of that sport and incidentally assign to him the additional post of track.

Colby's best record in track and field was made in the period between 1910 and 1930, and during most of those years Mike Ryan was coach. In fact two
Irishmen, Ryan at Colby and Jack Magee at Bowdoin, dominated track events in Maine for many years. To hear those two belligerent Hibernians argue about details of a meet was an experience long to be remembered. Colby never won a Maine intercollegiate meet, and only three times (in 1900, 1914, and 1943) did she take second place. In the 60 meets held by the four colleges since 1895, Colby has finished fourth in 41 of them, and only once in the last fourteen years has she scored as many as 12 points. In the 1958 meet not a single place went to a Colby contestant.

Colby’s best years in track were 1911 through 1916. One of the best scores ever made by a Colby team was 30 points in 1911, and even that high score brought nothing better than third place. It was one of the state’s most exciting and closely fought meets. Maine won with 41 points, barely nosing out Bates with 39. Bowdoin, for many years the champion, trailed with only 16. The period saw the acme of Colby’s famous dash man, Frank Nardini. In the 1911 meet Nardini won three first places: hundred, two-twenty, and broad jump. Sam Herrick won the high jump, and Sam Cates unexpectedly took the half mile run from the heralded Holden of Bates. Thus 25 of Colby’s 30 points were won by three men taking five first places. It was the failure to pick up second and third places amounting to more than five points that doomed Colby to third position in the meet.

In 1912 Colby again stood third with 26 points and in 1913 her 19 points was good for the same position. Then in 1914 the Colby team scored 37 points for second place and the highest score ever made by a Colby track team in the Maine annual meet. Maine won the meet easily, but Colby’s 37 points were more than the combined total of Bates and Bowdoin. Of the 59 track and field meets from 1895 to 1958, Bowdoin won 32, Maine 24, and Bates three.

A number of Maine Intercollegiate track records have been held briefly by Colby men. Nardini held the two-twenty jointly with another man at 22.2 seconds. Mittlesdorf twice lowered the same record, first to 22 seconds, and later to 21.8. Meanix held the quarter mile record for eleven years after he breasted the tape in 51 seconds in 1913. Johnny Daggett made a record broad jump of 23 feet, 2½ inches, in 1939; and Herrick tied the record with a man from each of the other three colleges when he cleared the high jump bar at 5 feet, 8 inches, in 1912. Only one Colby track record still stands. In 1940 Gilbert Peters, a Fairfield boy, established a new high jump record of 6 feet, 1½ inches. The next year saw Peters beat his own record by clearing 6 feet, 3¾ inches, a state record that he still holds.

Although “hare and hounds” had been an informal Colby sport in the 1880’s, the Colby cross-country teams did not come into prominence until half a century later. The long-legged country boys from the University of Maine usually dominated that sport. But in 1933 a little fellow from a small Maine town brought Colby national renown. Clifford Veysey was a natural long distance runner, with unusual stamina and bursts of speed at the right moments. After he won the New England cross-country meet in 1933, the Athletic Council decided to send him to the national meet. Against the finest competition in the nation, Veysey captured third place.

Colby alumni who themselves competed in track or were otherwise devoted to that fine individual sport have long lamented the College’s declining interest in what they still regard as a real test of a man’s worth.
Lawn tennis came to Colby about 1880, and "lawn" it indeed was. Not the smooth, closely clipped grass courts of the Longwood Cricket Club, but areas marked out on grass, crudely kept down with a scythe. The sport was flourishing in 1883, when the *Echo* commented:

> A new lawn tennis club has been organized in the freshman class. They have purchased an elaborate set, consisting of a rope, four shingles and a rubber ball. They may be seen any favorable afternoon on the court of the old railroad track.  

In 1891 came a demand for better courts, although, astonishingly, a total of ten were already in use. Tennis had become so popular that every fraternity tried to lay out a grassed area near its living quarters. The women had a good court, and the Athletic Association maintained several. It was the *Echo* of which Franklin Johnson was editor that sounded the cry for improvement.

> Tennis claims more than the usual number of devotees this spring. Three new courts have already been made and the old ones are all in use. We must again urge the oft repeated suggestion for better courts. Of the ten now occupied only two or three are suitable for good tennis, and even those are not the best. We have not a good clay court on the campus. So long as we are without clay courts we cannot expect to compete with men habituated to play on hard surface. Clay courts would soon justify their cost. While we are laying out a number of inferior courts, we could better afford to make a single good one. Until the desired end is secured the *Echo* will not cease to harp on the same chord.

In a few years the *Echo's* importunity was rewarded. Clay courts began to appear in increasing numbers—two of them between South College and the Chapel, two near Coburn Hall, one behind the DKE House and one at Phi Delta Theta. Lawn tennis disappeared and the hard surface game took its place.

> Until Mike Loebs, as coach of tennis, began to develop championship teams on Mayflower Hill, Colby did not fare well in intercollegiate competition in that sport. Her best remembered tennis player of the old days is Marston Morse, 1914, who for three successive years vied with Burleigh Martin of Bowdoin for the state championship. Morse later became a mathematician of international fame and an associate of Einstein's in the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton.

> The new courts at Mayflower Hill gave pronounced stimulus to tennis at Colby. That battery of expertly constructed, fast-drying courts, half of them clay and the other half asphalt, was the gift of Mrs. Edna McClymonds Wales of Massillon, Ohio, and Northport, Maine, in memory of her son, Sergeant Walter McClymonds Wales, who lost his life in World War II. On those courts Mike Loebs developed winning teams and outstanding players. Three Colby men have been State Singles Champion during the last twelve years: Nelson Everts in 1949 and 1950; John Marshall in 1956, and Grant Hendricks in 1958 and 1959. Marshall and John Shute were State Doubles Champions in 1956.

> Colby won the State Tennis Tournament in 1953, 1958 and 1959, and tied with Bowdoin in 1954 and with Bates in 1956. Since 1952 Colby has won 56 matches and lost 15.
Golf

It was Bill Millett, the hockey enthusiast, who also made golf a recognized Colby sport. In all the first 150 years of its history Colby never boasted a golf course, although Franklin Johnson intended that one should eventually be built on the broad college slope between the circular drive and the Messalonskee stream.

Even before the move to Mayflower Hill, Millett had developed interest among the Colby golfers. In 1933 he persuaded Dr. George Averill to finance Millett's informal team to a few tournaments, and asked the Athletic Council for recognition. The Council voted "that the boys be given the name of the Colby Golf Team under the supervision of Coach Millett." In 1934 a regular golf schedule was approved, but even then the Council would assume no financial obligation. In a few years, however, after the department's reorganization under Loebs, golf became a fully accredited minor sport and Colby golf teams have won their share of victories. The home links for Colby golfers have been the grounds of the Waterville Country Club, with which the College has long maintained close relations.

Winter Sports

It was not until the College had moved to Mayflower Hill that winter sports got a firm foothold at Colby. Not that no interest had been shown earlier; many attempts were made to arouse enthusiasm for skiing and snowshoeing, and long before the move to the Hill the Winter Carnival had become a regular feature of the winter season. It was true, however, that often the only popular event of the carnival was the ball. Students who seemed to be "dance crazy" were lethargic toward winter sports.

The first member of the Colby staff to show interest in any outdoor winter sport except hockey was Mike Ryan, who in 1920 presented plans for the formation of an Outing Club and the holding of a few ski and snowshoe events on a single day. When Harry Edwards took charge of the department in 1921, he showed active interest in winter sports, but was unable to arouse student enthusiasm. Not until 1926 was Colby represented officially at the University of Maine Winter Carnival. In that year the Athletic Council appropriated twenty dollars to pay expenses of a winter sports team to the carnival at Orono, but the appropriation was not made willingly. Evidently President Roberts had supported Edwards' plea for official sponsorship and had asked the Council to make an appropriation, for the Council records tell us, "Voted that President Roberts be informed that this support is made under strenuous protest."

In 1927 the Council voted "to support a winter sports team provided there is enough interest." By 1930 the number of winter sports participants had become sufficient to warrant arrangements between the College and the Mountain Farm Ski Slope. Later the College obtained a lease of the slope, where the Outing Club constructed and maintained a hut, laid out a jump, a slalom course, and other facilities for competitive ski events. On the occasion of each Winter Carnival, buses were chartered to carry students and other spectators to the races and jumping contests at the Mountain Farm Slope, where often as many as six other colleges placed teams in the competition. For many years the Outing Club had as faculty adviser the head of the Department of Geology, first in the person of Professor Richard Lougee, and then of his successor, Professor Donaldson Koons, and both men worked with Professor Loebs to make the Winter Carnival
successful. Officially the carnival was sponsored and directed by the Outing Club, but the competitive events came under the direction of the Department of Health and Physical Education.

After 1948, in connection with the Mountain Farm Slope, smaller practice slopes were opened on the campus, instructors were employed, and skiing became popular. In the Women's Division alone as many as two hundred pairs of skis were sometimes stacked in a basement room in their Union. After the public ski slope was developed at Sugar Loaf Mountain, near Kingfield, weekend ski trips to that site became increasingly popular, and one goal long sought by the enthusiasts had been achieved: to make skiing not merely a varsity sport for competition, but a sport, like tennis, in which hundreds of students could participate for the fun of participation.

The Colby Outing Club did much more than direct a winter carnival. It had charge of all out-of-door activities except the organized teams. It conducted mountain climbing trips to Katahdin, Bigelow, Saddleback, and other Maine peaks. In 1942 it opened the Great Pond Camp and Lodge, a property secured by the College on the largest lake of the Belgrade chain, twelve miles from Waterville. There, on what had once been a private summer estate with several buildings, the Outing Club offered facilities for swimming, boating, fishing, and outdoor recreation.

Soccer

In the late 1950's soccer became a popular game. Its ardent promoter was Professor Loeb, whose teams were so well coached that they seldom lost a game. By 1960 games were regularly arranged with a few other colleges, Colby fielding both a varsity and a freshman team, and "Mike" Loeb had won a reputation throughout New England as a successful soccer enthusiast.

On the Water

The previous chapter has mentioned Colby's early attempts to put boat crews on the Kennebec. Throughout the long history of the College, however, Colby athletes have been essentially land animals. In its otherwise excellent attention to physical education, Colby still lacked in 1960 a swimming pool. Hence the College has never had a swimming team, and the only opportunity has been use of the Outing Club camp or the Adult Recreation Camp in the summer, or a clandestine dip in the forbidden waters of Johnson Pond. Arrangements have sometimes been made for occasional use of the indoor pool of the Waterville Boys Club, but even when that facility is available it is two miles distant from the campus.

If Colby students had little opportunity for exercise in the water, they did seek in the early 1950's for a chance to exercise on its surface. This was not a revival of the old rowing crews, but rather the inauguration of the Colby Yacht Club. Sparked by a few enthusiastic yachtsmen, the club for several years competed in college regattas, notably on the Charles River. It had to borrow its boats, though for a time it did own a single craft, moored at the dock of the Outing Club Camp on Great Pond. Dependent on a few ardent workers, the Yacht Club lost support when its originators graduated and by 1959 had become defunct. While it lasted, however, it had the distinction of being the only Colby sport in which both men and women participated on the same team.
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Trophies

Besides trophies offered through the Maine Intercollegiate Athletic Association for supremacy in various sports, a number of awards are made annually at Colby College. Among them are the following:

The Herbert E. Wadsworth award to the most valuable football player.
The Edward C. Roundy award to the most valuable baseball player.
The Robert Lafleur Memorial award to the most valuable basketball player.
The David Dobson Ski award to the most valuable member of the ski team.
The Ellsworth Millett award to the most valuable player in hockey.
The Norman Walker award to the hockey player showing most improvement.
The J. Seelye Bixler award to the most valuable participant in varsity track.
The Shiro award to the basketball player showing most improvement.
The “Ginger” Fraser award to the most outstanding non-letter member of the football squad.
The Donald Lake award to a member of the senior class who has shown outstanding athletic ability, leadership, and academic accomplishment.
The Norman White award to a member of the senior class for inspirational leadership and sportsmanship.

Outstanding Athletes

He would be a bold man indeed who would dare to name Colby’s leading athletes throughout the long history of sports at the College. Probably no two alumni would agree on listing the twenty-five best. When this historian asked five alumni long familiar with Colby sports to present such a list, he found so much difference of opinion and such a profusion of names that he gave up in despair.

A lot of men are worthy of a place in Colby’s athletic hall of fame. If, in closing this chapter, we mention a few names, it is with humble apology to those who could quite as well be included.

Many of the older alumni remember not only Jack Coombs, but such earlier athletes as Clayton Brooks and John Pugsley. Men of this historian’s own undergraduate days, in the second decade of this century, still sing the praises of Ralph Good, Frank Nardini, “Ginger” Fraser, Eddie Cawley, Jack Lowney, Sam Cates, and Sam Herrick. Those of the 1920’s remember best men like Bill Millett, Wally Donovan, Dick Drummond, “Bobby” Scott, and “Buzz” Burrill. The 1930 graduates like to recall the Peabody brothers, “Paddy” Davan, Romeo Lemieux, Cliff Veysey, Bob LaFleur, and Charlie Hedwig. Although interrupted by the war, the 1940’s brought to prominence the Shiro brothers, George Clark, Norman White, Joe Wallace, and Remo Verrengia. In the 1950’s came the Jabar brothers, Ted Lallier, Frank Piacentini, Peter Cavari, and George Roden.

Let it be repeated that the foregoing do not constitute a list of Colby’s best athletes, but merely mention of a few representative men. For, if one would name the Colby athlete, his name is legion.
CHAPTER XLVI

The Academies

COLBY alumni who received their degrees before the Second World War know that four Maine academies were once designated as preparatory schools for Colby. During the 1930’s those schools became less closely connected with the College so that by the time of the final removal to Mayflower Hill they were no longer regarded as Colby fitting schools. Those four academies were Coburn in Waterville, Hebron in the western Maine hills of Oxford County, Higgins at Charleston not far from Bangor, and Ricker in the great potato land of Aroostook.

At the time of the founding of Colby it was common for colleges to operate preparatory departments. The best way to assure a student’s enrollment was to prepare him for college work within the institution’s own walls. No sooner had Jeremiah Chaplin opened his theological classes in 1818 than he began to consider what to do with students not prepared to attempt college work, for despite the failure of the Massachusetts legislature to grant the right to confer degrees, Chaplin was determined that his institution should become a recognized college, not merely a seminary. In June, 1820, the Maine Legislature conferred upon the institution the privilege to grant degrees, and in the following February granted a change of name to Waterville College. Chaplin, now ready to act on the matter of preparing students for entrance, persuaded his Trustees to vote on August 19, 1821, “that the Prudential Committee be instructed to employ any gentleman of suitable qualifications to instruct a grammar school in connection with the College, without expense to the College.”

In 1821 the College had no building except the partially finished President’s House on the college lot. So it was in the Wood House, on the present site of the Elmwood Hotel, that the classes of the “College Grammar School” were first held. Its principal was Henry Paine of the Class of 1823, and for several years it continued to be the custom to employ a college student, like Paine, to conduct the school. In fact Paine was followed for two years, 1824 to 1826, by the student who would become Colby’s most famous graduate, Elijah Lovejoy. When South College was opened in 1822, the grammar school was moved to that building and it was within its walls that Lovejoy prepared students for college entrance.

Within a few years it became apparent that the preparatory school must have a separate home, and on August 27, 1828, the college trustees voted “that the Prudential Committee be authorized to erect a building for an academy connected with the College for a sum not exceeding $300.” The College Treasurer, Timothy Boutelle, had already given the lot on Elm Street to the society which erected the Baptist Meetinghouse in 1825. Just south of the church was the
village cemetery (now Monument Park). The next lot to the south was also owned by Boutelle, who generously gave it to the College as a site for the needed academy building. The pittance of $300 appropriated by the College was augmented by subscriptions secured by President Chaplin, so that when the academy building was opened in the fall of 1829 its entire cost of $1750 had been fully paid. The school was renamed Waterville Academy. It had no separate charter, but was simply an adjunct to the College, managed by the college faculty.

In its new home the principal was again a college senior, Harry W. Paine of the Class of 1830, not to be confused with the earlier Henry Paine. Wholly dependent upon very low tuition fees for its support, save when the College trustees could squeeze out a few dollars to repair the building, the school could not afford a full-time principal or teacher. The college faculty paid less and less attention to it, especially after the resignation of Chaplin in 1833; but before that unhappy occasion, Chaplin had taken the bold step of securing an experienced, degree-holding principal, though the poor man well knew he must depend upon the precarious tuition fees for his support. The man to whom Chaplin turned was the same Henry Paine, Class of 1823, who had started the College Grammar School in 1821.

When he took charge of Waterville Academy in 1831, Paine brought with him a sound reputation as head of Monmouth Academy, where he had presided since 1827. In a statement made at the time of the Coburn Semicentennial in 1879, William Mathews (Colby, 1835) said of Paine:

Disliking to punish disorderly pupils, and lacking the commanding presence and personal magnetism which make punishment unnecessary, he had little control over the scholars, the most roguish of whom despised his threats and laughed at his entreaties. But a more conscientious and kindhearted teacher never lived.1

Paine must indeed have possessed qualities which offset his weakness in discipline, for he remained in charge of the academy for four years. The inducements held out to him were contained in a letter from President Chaplin, written on April 29, 1831.

It gives me no little pleasure to learn that you have decided to take charge of our academy. We have concluded to fix tuition at $3.00 per quarter, so that if you average 40 scholars your income will be $480 a year. In regard to a house, you are likely to have one ready in six or eight weeks. Mr. Dodge is preparing one just about large enough for you. It is 38 by 18 feet, with an addition for a kitchen, and is a story and a half high. It will contain two front rooms, a bedroom and a kitchen on the lower floor. It will furnish room for a considerable number of boarders if you choose to take them. There will be a small garden and next autumn a shed will be added. The rent will be $50 a year.

After Paine left in 1835 the school encountered difficulties. No principal stayed longer than a few months. The Universalists, arch-rivals of the Baptists in Waterville, opened an academy of their own, the Waterville Liberal Institute. Enrollment at the older school fell so low that in the spring of 1841 it was forced to close its doors.
Local citizens were determined that a school that had been so successful in the 1830's should not remain closed. Through those years both the real estate and the management of the academy had been vested in the College, but neither Trustees nor faculty were giving it much attention in the precarious times following the departure of Paine. An aroused citizens' committee therefore proposed that the College relinquish its control of the school and give it into the hands of an independent board of trustees. In February, 1842, the Maine Legislature therefore incorporated Waterville Academy with a board on which were represented such prominent Waterville citizens as Dr. Samuel Plaisted, Dr. Stephen Thayer, and Harrison A. Smith. Although the College handed over to that board the complete management of the school, the College Trustees retained title to the real estate.

The first principal under the new corporation was Nathaniel Butler (Colby, 1842), father of the man who would later be a Colby president. He remained for only one year, and it was then, in the fall of 1843 that there came the man with whom the names Waterville Academy and Coburn Classical Institute were to be associated for half a century.

James Hobbs Hanson had graduated from the College in 1842, had taught one year at Hampden, and was working on his father's farm in China when two of the academy trustees called upon him on a summer day in 1843. They could offer no compensation beyond what he could receive in tuition fees, and they could not promise him a single student, but they did agree to make needed repairs on the building. The young man accepted the challenge.

Hanson opened his school with only six pupils, but before Christmas he had increased the number to 28. Nevertheless, the end of that first term saw him out of pocket forty dollars. For eleven years Hanson worked vigorously and successfully until in 1852 the enrollment reached 308, the largest number in the school's entire history. Nevertheless, the academy had no endowment, more pupils demanded more teachers, and more space, the building was in constant need of repair, and it was no small task to collect student bills. Hanson broke under the strain and resigned in 1854.

During the next eleven years the academy had eleven different principals. Enrollment declined rapidly and the school's prestige was greatly weakened. The Civil War hit such schools hard. Many Maine academies closed permanently between 1860 and 1865, and many others were merged into high schools. The plan adopted in 1843, to give Waterville Academy an existence independent of the College had proved futile. Without funds, the new trustees were not inclined to pay much attention to the school. As long as Dr. Hanson presided, his personality and administrative genius kept the doors open, but not even he could persuade the Trustees to provide money to keep the building in repair.

Because the title to land and building still rested in the College, it was decided in 1865 to restore the original relation between College and Academy. Vacancies on the academy board had not been filled, and the remaining trustees resigned, having first made over their trust to the College. The College Trustees, accepting the trust, voted to change the name to Waterville Classical Institute.

Girls were admitted early to this Waterville school. Because no list of students has been preserved earlier than 1830, and because it is unlikely that girls were included in the old grammar school conducted in the college buildings, we may assume that female instruction began with the opening of the building on Elm Street in 1829. The catalogue published in 1830 shows two teachers: Henry Paine, preceptor, and Joseph Hodges, Jr., assistant. There were 61 pupils divided
into three distinct groups. Seventeen boys were listed as "Students of the Lan-
guages"; eighteen boys were in "English Studies"; and twenty-five girls were
named under the heading "Misses." Among those young ladies were Helen Bou-
telle, who became the wife of the first superintendent of the Androscoggin and
Kennebec Railroad; Caroline and Lydia Gilman, daughters of Timothy Boutelle's
partner in many business enterprises; Rebecca Moor of Waterville's shipbuilding
family; Caroline Redington, descendant of the Revolutionary soldier who built
the first Ticonic dam; and Marcia Chaplin, daughter of Colby's first president.

Under the revision of 1865 there was started a "Three Year Collegiate
Course for Ladies." In 1869 it was extended to four years and the Legislature
granted the right for the Institute "to confer the collegiate honors and degrees
that are usually granted by female colleges." The largest class ever to receive
degrees was made up of eleven girls in 1876, but a few years later the course
was discontinued.

The revival of the academy's success and influence that began in 1865 was
due almost entirely to the return of Dr. Hanson. With health restored and with
confidence in the Trustees of the College, who promised faithfully to support the
academy, Dr. Hanson agreed to take charge again, and in the autumn of 1865
he began the long and brilliant administration that ended only with his death in
1894.

Convinced that the way to increase college enrollment was to secure the
affiliation of other academies besides the local school, the Trustees turned their
attention in that direction. When the Maine Baptist Convention met at Bath,
in June, 1872, President Champlin presented the need of endowment for Waterville
Classical Institute and of connecting other academies in the state, especially
those of Baptist foundation, with the College. The Baptist Convention took no
immediate action, but the College Trustees themselves acted promptly. In 1873
they appointed a committee, headed by Dr. W. H. Shailer of Portland, which ad-
vised that $100,000 be raised to endow three preparatory schools, the money
to be held by the College and only the interest paid annually to the school treas-
urers.

The plan was given impetus when President Champlin received the follow-
ing letter from Ex-Governor Abner Coburn of Skowhegan in April, 1874.

I agree to subscribe the sum of $50,000 to endow the Waterville Classical
Institute, on condition that $50,000 more shall be subscribed to endow
two other institutions of similar character, one east and one west, and
provided further that at least $40,000 of the $50,000 by me subscribed
shall be set apart and kept as a permanent fund, the interest only to be
used annually forever. I agree to pay said $50,000 as fast as the
other $50,000 shall be collected and paid into the college treasury, and
no faster.

Rev. A. R. Crane was appointed agent to collect the needed $50,000. Be-
cause of the financial depression of the 1870's his work was difficult. By the end
of 1877 he had been able to secure only $35,000. Finally, through the strenuous
efforts of Dr. Hanson and Judge Percival Bonney the full amount was secured in
1883. Meanwhile the two academies to be added to the Waterville Institute as
Colby fitting schools had already been chosen.

The choice of Houlton Academy as the eastern school was easy. Located
in Aroostook's most flourishing town, that school had been founded in 1847 and
in 1870 had erected a new building. One of its founders, Dr. Joseph Ricker, had long been a member of the Colby Board, and he pledged $5000 to the needed endowment provided the College would name Houlton as its eastern preparatory school.

Choice of the western academy was more controversial. Friends of two schools presented rival claims, with two of Maine’s most prominent men appearing as the antagonists. Hannibal Hamlin supported Hebron Academy and Ex-Governor Frederick Robie advocated the selection of Gorham Academy. Realizing that his school lacked the Baptist background of Hebron, Robie pulled all the wires of Cumberland County politics. The Hebron principal at that time was John F. Moody, a graduate of Colby in the Class of 1867, the same John Moody who claimed to have introduced baseball at Colby. Moody assembled his Hebron class of seven pupils and laid before them the challenge to do something of permanent value for their school. All seven agreed to seek admission to Colby, and they accompanied Moody to Waterville for the August Commencement in 1874. Entrance examinations were then given at commencement time.

Moody knew that his biggest handicap lay in the expectation that Governor Robie would offer substantial endowment for Gorham, as Governor Coburn had done for Waterville. When he arrived at the College, Moody learned from Judge Bonney that Dr. Shailer, acknowledged leader of the Maine Baptists, now supported Gorham. Then Bonney gave Moody some shrewd advice. “You must talk with no one here until you have first seen Hamlin. The man who told Lincoln that Hebron Academy was the college from which he graduated won’t go back on his old school now.” Taking his seven students in tow, Moody did see Hamlin and assured him that these seven young people were prospective Colby students.

Moody waited anxiously in an adjoining room while the Colby Trustees considered the case for Gorham. Finally summoned, he entered the meeting room just in time to hear Hannibal Hamlin address a question to Governor Robie. “How many students has Gorham sent to any college each year on an average?” “Two or three,” replied Robie. “How long will it take you to prepare a class for Colby?” continued Hamlin. “Two or three years,” was Robie’s reply. Turning to Moody, Hamlin asked, “How long will it take Hebron to prepare a class for Colby?” “Seven are taking the examinations today,” was Moody’s exultant response. Less than an hour later the Colby Board had voted to make Hebron their western preparatory school.

The final plan of organization was not perfected, however, until 1877, when the Colby Trustees adopted the following resolution.

Whereas the Trustees of Hebron Academy and the Trustees of Houlton Academy have signified their readiness to reorganize their boards to the satisfaction of the Trustees of Colby University, and the Board of Trustees of Waterville Classical Institute is already organized to their satisfaction, be it resolved that the President and Trustees of Colby University accept the trust of the funds collected to be held by it in the aid of the said institutions and commits them to the treasurer for investment under the Prudential Committee of this Board. The Treasurer shall hold the investments for each academy separate from each other and from the University funds, and shall be allowed from the annual income of each of said funds one-tenth of one percent annually on the principal amount of each fund for his services in handling the same. As long as a said academy is managed to the satisfaction of the Trustees
of Colby University, the net income earned by its fund held by the University shall be paid annually to the treasurer of the academy.

When subscriptions had all been paid in 1883, Colby held as endowment for the three schools, $24,623 for Hebron, $31,225 for Houlton, and $50,546 for Waterville Classical Institute.

In 1891 a fourth school entered the scene. Rev. John H. Higgins of Charleston offered to place in the hands of the College $25,000 as an endowment of Charleston Academy provided the College would raise an equal amount in ten years for the construction of buildings. The College accepted the offer. Mr. Higgins paid his pledge, but the College was a long time fulfilling its part of the agreement to match his $25,000. As late as 1901, the College had supplied only $6,000 of the promised amount.

At the turn of the century Colby was proud of her four academies. In a long letter to Joseph L. Colby, written in 1901, Judge Bonney commented on the value of those schools to the College.

For the past twenty-five years a majority of the students in the College have come from these affiliated schools. The life of the College depends upon the continued existence of these academies with their present relations to the College unimpaired. Coburn and Ricker are located in large settlements, while Hebron and Higgins are located in the country free from the distractions and temptations of larger towns. The College draws its students mainly from the farms and country villages. Men brought up in large cities have no conception of the influence of these institutions upon country boys and girls. The academy is an essential part of our educational system and is so regarded by the people of Maine. The interests of the State, as well as the interests of the College, demand that these academies be encouraged, not crippled.²

Before Judge Bonney wrote that letter three of the academies had changed their names. Charleston had become Higgins Classical Institute and Houlton was now Ricker Classical Institute. The most important change, however, had been made at the oldest of the schools in Waterville, when because of the generosity of Abner Coburn, the local academy was renamed Coburn Classical Institute.

When the brother and nephew of Governor Coburn were drowned in 1881, he decided to erect as a memorial to them a new building for the Waterville Institute. Built in 1882 on the site of the old building, augmented by purchase of an adjoining lot, the large brick structure with its spacious rooms, its high ceilings, and its impressive tower served the classroom needs of the school for 73 years until it was destroyed by fire on February 22, 1955. His original endowment of $50,000, the new building, other gifts in his lifetime, and a bequest in his will brought Abner Coburn's total contributions to the Institute to more than $200,000.

From the beginning the College had held title to the real estate of Coburn. In 1887 it secured similar title to buildings at Ricker, and in 1892 the same arrangement was made with Higgins. Never, however, were the Hebron buildings in other hands than those of the Hebron trustees. In fact, by 1900, the College held only a minor fraction of the Hebron endowment. The procedure with regard to Coburn, Higgins and Ricker was legalized by act of the Maine Legislature in 1887.
The President and Trustees of Colby University are hereby authorized to take and hold personal and real estate in trust for Coburn Classical Institute and other academies and schools, and devote the same to the purpose for which such institution is incorporated, and all conveyances and deposits of property and funds heretofore made to said President and Trustees of Colby University for the purposes aforesaid are hereby ratified and confirmed.

In 1892 the College Treasurer actually received greater additions to the academy funds than he did to the endowment of the College. Receipts for the college funds were $963, while those for the four academies totaled $8300.

In 1901 the College Trustees wanted to know just what contribution the academies had made to the College. Investigation revealed that, in the six years from 1895 to 1901, of the 195 graduates of Coburn 78 had entered Colby; of 202 Hebron graduates Colby had received 45; of 62 graduating from Higgins 10 had come to Colby; and Colby's share of Ricker's 112 graduates was 11.

By 1902 the Colby Trustees realized that, whatever might be the value of the academies, they were costing money badly needed for maintenance of the College itself. The Board then voted that the College would make no further payments on account of expenses of Coburn, but would lend to Coburn $3000 annually for three years at five percent interest. It was also voted to request payment from Hebron and Ricker of the money advanced from time to time for operating expenses.

Meanwhile inroads had been made into the capital funds, especially those held for Coburn. Whereas in 1883 the Coburn fund amounted to more than $50,000, in 1904 it totaled only $39,000, because it had gradually been whittled away to repay the College for money advanced. In similar fashion the Ricker fund had fallen from $31,000 to $21,000. On the other hand, the Hebron fund had grown from $24,000 to $60,000. Hebron's good fortune was probably due to the provisions of affiliation, which did not permit deductions from its fund held by the College. The whole situation is made clear by two votes passed by the Colby Trustees in June, 1906.

Voted, that the Treasurer be authorized to endeavor to collect from Hebron Academy $2000 a year until the debt of that institution to the College has been liquidated.

Voted, that the Treasurer be authorized to deduct $300 a year from the income due to Ricker Classical Institute until the debt of that institution to the College has been liquidated.

In 1906 the College established its Preparatory Schools Prize Scholarships. A scholarship of $50 for the freshman year was available to the highest ranking boy and to the highest ranking girl entering the College from each of the academies—a total of eight annual scholarships.

President Charles L. White had not been long at Colby before he began to hold grave doubts about the value of the preparatory schools. Concerned about the decreasing numbers of their graduates, he is said to have made a remark that wasn't exactly the best advertising for Colby. When someone asked White why so few graduates of the academies came to Colby in the years 1904 to 1907, he is alleged to have replied: “I can't see, after a boy has visited Bowdoin and seen what they have there, why he should come to Colby.”
Many persons attributed the low repute of Colby to the "student strike" of 1903, described in an earlier chapter. At any rate the whole situation caused renewed investigation of the relation of the four schools to the College. At that time President White was trying to interest the General Education Board in adding to the Colby endowment, and in a long statement to that Board he made clear his views about the preparatory schools. He criticized the fund raising efforts that had been put into the academies at the expense of the College.

From 1874 to 1900 at least $400,000 were given to our four preparatory schools largely from Colby sources. Meanwhile the college endowment, while showing a net increase, sustained heavy losses. In 1901 we had charged off a loss of $17,000 which had been advanced to Coburn. During the eleven years in which Coburn failed to meet expenses by $20,900, the attendance has more than doubled, but the number of students entering the College from the Institute has decreased.4

By 1914 the situation had become so acute that a new committee studied the problem. It found Hebron a strong school, with several Colby alumni on the faculty but with the Hebron graduates increasingly inclined to go to other colleges than Colby. At Coburn the supply of graduates for the College was more favorable than the finances. Governor Coburn's once handsome endowment had now dwindled to $15,000. The committee said: "The reduction has been due to the acquisition of an expensive athletic field, annual deficits in operation, and some losses in investments." The report pointed out that, without the generosity of the Coburn family, the school might not have survived until 1914.

The family of the late Stephen Coburn have given the school from $3000 to $5000 annually to help meet the deficits. But even those generous sums did not meet all expenses. It being evident that a crisis had been reached, the Coburn family offered to give $75,000 for endowment provided other friends of the school would raise another $75,000 for additional endowment and the construction of dormitories.5

Higgins had met with the loss of its dormitory by fire in January, 1914. Only $6000 was recovered from insurance, and $25,000 was needed to restore the building. The situation at Ricker, said the committee, remained about as it had been in 1901; namely with a debt to the College gradually being reduced from income.

The committee arranged for a meeting with representatives of the four schools, after which they reported:

It was the unanimous opinion that the relations between the several schools and the College had been allowed to become less close than they should, and that a radical change in this respect should be effected. No one need be blamed for the present situation, but all present expressed the earnest wish that a stronger feeling of cooperation and mutual helpfulness be aroused.

This writer taught at Hebron from 1913 to 1921, and he knows that during those years it became increasingly difficult to interest students, especially boys, in Colby. Hebron boys, many of whom had long turned to Bowdoin, were now seeking admission to Dartmouth, Amherst and Williams. Fewer of them were
inclined to apply at any coeducational college. Meanwhile the trustees of the academies came to consider their schools as quite independent, except for the somewhat tenuous financial ties.

That the time-honored relations were respected and valued, but that changed conditions should not be ignored was stated in the report made to the Trustees in November, 1928, by the chairman of the Executive Committee, administering the College until the election of a president. Professor Marriner, the committee chairman, then reported:

We are not forgetting the close relation that has long been maintained between the College and its four affiliated preparatory schools. Of course everyone is aware that the function of those schools has broadened and that the apron strings have all but been severed. They no longer prepare students almost exclusively for Colby. Such a situation is not only the inevitable result of changing educational conditions in Maine, but it is also better for both the colleges and the schools.

In 1925 the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention suggested to Colby College and to the Baptists of Maine that they combine their secondary schools into not more than three institutions, and preferably only two. A joint commission representing both Colby and the Maine Baptist Convention considered the proposal and submitted an exhaustive questionnaire to each of the four Colby schools. The replies disclosed the following facts. The real estate of the four schools was valued at $700,000, their total endowments at $720,000, more than a third of which was held by Hebron. Expenditures were balanced by receipts at Hebron and Higgins, but not at Coburn and Ricker. To the four schools, in 1924-25, came pupils from 194 towns. The total enrollment was 618. Not one student admitted to college from any of these schools in 1923 had failed. All four academies were managed by independent boards of trustees, Coburn having returned to that status nearly a quarter of a century earlier. For the most part students came from towns that did not maintain high schools; in fact such towns paid more than $20,000 a year for the tuition of their pupils at the academies.

The Colby Trustees therefore refused to consider severing their relations with any of the four academies.

When Franklin Johnson came to the Colby presidency he did everything possible to cement relations with the academies. Having himself been a highly successful principal of Coburn, he knew the potential value of that school to the College. He saw to it that all of the schools were regularly visited by college representatives and that attempts to enroll their graduates in the College were vigorously pursued. But it was too late. As the Executive Committee had clearly pointed out in 1928, none of the schools, with the possible exception of Coburn, considered that it any longer had peculiar relations to Colby. Hebron had become a boys' school; Ricker had expanded into a junior college, soon to become a four-year college; and the majority of college-bound Higgins graduates were going to the University of Maine. Because of its location, Coburn still had close ties with the College, but in spite of the intense loyalty of its Colby principal less than half the college entrants in each graduating class now came to Colby.

By the end of the Second World War the schools had begun to clamor for release of their funds held by the College. Fire at Higgins had justified the release
of certain funds, and even though the Coburn funds had been built up substantially from their low point of $15,000 in 1914, inroads had again been made into the capital to pay off mounting annual deficits. In 1951 the College held only $27,315 for Coburn, $63,600 for Hebron, and $1,079 for Higgins. In response to a request from the Ricker Trustees, the remainder of their fund, amounting to slightly more than $19,000 had been turned over to them in 1946.

Colby's financial relation with the academies ended on June 30, 1956, when the Treasurer reported: "During the year all investments of academy funds were returned to the academies, as authorized by the provisions of Chapter 113 of the Private and Special Laws of Maine, 1955."

At first blush, the reader may conclude that Colby's attempt to secure and maintain affiliation with certain academies was a mistake, that President White was right when he strongly implied that the energy expended upon that project could better have been turned to increasing the college resources. That conclusion would be too hastily drawn. The long history of the affiliation reveals that, despite its liabilities, it had definite and valuable assets. It is indeed possible that, without the close relations with those schools, the College itself might have been obliged to close its doors. The four academies were all boarding schools where many students lived in dormitories, thus acquainting them, as no high school student could be acquainted, with living conditions at college. Because the academies drew their students from many towns, they gave the sponsoring college an indirect contact with families in those towns. Finally, because both the College and the four schools were Baptist institutions, they had a common ground for denominational aid.

That, after 1900, the academies became less important to the College was not entirely the fault of either party. The result can be partially attributed to the changing times. Public high schools increased so rapidly that they replaced or absorbed many of the old academies. Quality of work in the high schools improved so much that it became less necessary for a boy or girl to attend a classical institute in order to prepare for college. As the high schools drew more and more students away from the academies, the latter found it increasingly difficult to sustain adequate enrollment, and the inevitable result of the pressure for numbers was a lowering of standards. The public was losing confidence in the academies as superior institutions of learning. Financially the academies faced a dilemma. If they did not substantially raise tuition and boarding fees, they could not secure competent teachers in competition with the public schools; if they raised fees too high, they would price themselves out of the market.

The interesting fact is that, even as late as 1960, not one of the four schools had gone out of existence, but three of them had changed their essential character. Hebron had become a nationally known school for boys, with superior instruction, and high rates. Ricker had expanded into a college. Coburn, after the disastrous fire of 1955, had given up its boarding department and all of its programs except the college preparatory course, and had become a private day school. Only Higgins remained a boarding school, in a rural setting, drawing most of its students from nearby towns. Colby graduates presided at two of the schools, and the College maintained the most cordial relations with all of them. The day had long gone by when Colby needed to depend upon its four former "feeders" for students, but, in 1960 as in 1900, the College gladly welcomed the kind of boys and girls that those fine schools persistently trained, and indeed the College often wished it could have more like them.
COLBY IN THREE WARS

The effect that three major wars had upon the College has been recounted in previous chapters. What was Colby's contribution to those wars? That is the subject of the present chapter.

Colby's beginning came too late for the War of 1812; in fact it was that conflict which delayed the start of the institution. The College was in operation, under President David Sheldon, during the War with Mexico, but there is no evidence that any Colby men participated in that conflict. It was not until 1861, therefore, that Colby made its first contribution on the nation's battlefields.

THE CIVIL WAR

Between 1820 and 1865 a total of 990 men had attended Waterville College. Of that number 228 had died. Of the remaining 742 men, 168 enlisted in the Civil War. Almost exactly half of those men, to the number of 86, were commissioned officers. Three were major generals: Benjamin F. Butler of the Class of 1838, Charles Henry Smith, 1856, and Harris M. Plaisted, 1853; three held the rank of Brigadier General: Russell B. Shepherd, 1857, William K. Baldwin, 1855, and Charles P. Baldwin, 1858. Eight Colby men were colonels, five were lieutenant colonels, eight were majors, twenty were captains and sixteen were lieutenants. Fourteen others held commissions in the medical corps and nine were commissioned chaplains. Classes represented ranged from 1830 to 1869, and on Colby's list of Civil War veterans are the names of ten men who actually did not attend the College until the war was over. The names, ranks, and service assignments of those 168 Colby men who served in the war will be found on pages 83 to 90 of Dr. Whittemore's History of Colby College (1927).

Twenty-six Colby men laid down their lives for the Union cause. The date after each name is the college class.

George Bassett, 1862
Amasa Bigelow, 1862
Stephen Boothby, 1857
Leonard Butler, 1865
Thomas Clark, 1855
John Drake, 1857
Samuel Dyer, 1862
Samuel Fifield, 1860
George Getchell, 1863
John Goldthwaite, 1860
A hundred years after the Civil War, the fighting unit in that conflict which Colby men remember best is the Twentieth Maine, because of the celebrated history of that regiment published in 1957 by a Colby graduate, John J. Pullen, 1935. Six Colby men served in that famous regiment commanded by General Joshua Chamberlain. Samuel T. Keene, 1856, survived the ordeal at Gettysburg, but fell in the battle of Petersburg in 1864. Weston H. Keene, 1865, was killed in the battle of Weldon in 1864; and George C. Getchell, 1862, remaining on army duty in the months after Lee's surrender, died of yellow fever in New Orleans in 1866. Thus three Colby men who served in the Twentieth Maine were war casualties. The three survivors were Joseph A. Ross, 1856; Henry Merriam, 1864; and William Libbey, who did not receive his degree until 1874.

One Colby casualty in the war was not a member of the Union forces. Lorenzo A. Smith, a Vermonter, had graduated from Waterville College in 1850, had first gone out to Ohio as a teacher, then pursued that vocation for two years in Mississippi and Arkansas. In 1854 he settled on an Arkansas farm and combined agriculture with teaching. When war came, Smith's sympathies were with the North, but in 1864 the Confederate draft caught up with him and he was forced into the Southern army. He died in service a few months after his induction.

Two Colby graduates made the army their professional career after the war. Henry Clay Merriam entered the College from Houlton in 1860. When, in the spring of 1862, President Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers, companies were enthusiastically organized in Maine towns. Such a company was formed by Henry Merriam in Houlton, and as its captain he saw it later attached to the Twentieth Maine. Of the taking of such companies into the regiment which came under the command of General Chamberlain at Gettysburg, Pullen says:

The 20th Maine was the last of the three-year regiments raised in Maine in response to the President's call in July, 1862. Apparently it was formed from detachments originally enlisted in the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th regiments, and afterward found to be unnecessary to complete those organizations. The 'leftovers' came from scattered localities: Company B from a big woods county, Piscataquis; Company H from Aroostook, from which it was a hundred-mile trip by stagecoach before the railroad was reached at Bangor.
After Gettysburg, Merriam was attached to the 80th U. S. Volunteers, still in the rank of captain. Promoted to lieutenant colonel, he commanded the 73rd and the 85th U. S. regiments in 1864-65, and at the end of the war was made a Brevet Colonel. He decided to remain in the service, taking the regular rank of major in the 38th U. S. Infantry in 1866. He soon rose to lieutenant colonel in the period of the Indian uprisings in the West, and was made a full colonel in 1885. Two years later he became a brigadier general, and at the outbreak of the Spanish War in 1898, Merriam reached his final promotion to Major General, U. S. Volunteers. He died in Portland in 1912, at the age of 75.

The other Colby man to become a professional soldier as a result of the Civil War was Charles Henry Smith, 1856. We have more information about General Smith than we have about General Merriam, thanks to the general's daughter, Mary Livermore Dunlap, whose will bequeathed to Colby College the correspondence and papers of her father, extending from 1861 to 1891. Mrs. Dunlap's bequest also included a portrait of General Smith; medals awarded to him; three swords, scabbards, and belts, a framed citation of his membership in the Legion of Honor, and a package containing epaulets, buttons, and other insignia.

Charles H. Smith was a York County native, born in Hollis in 1827. Entering college older than most of his classmates, he received his degree in 1856, and immediately became principal of the new high school at Eastport. There, in 1861, he recruited and became captain of Company D, First Maine Cavalry. Made a major in the unit in February, 1863, his promotion was rapid, for by March he was a lieutenant colonel and before the end of June a full colonel. He commanded that cavalry unit at Gettysburg. In August, 1864, he became Brevet Brigadier General of U. S. Volunteers, and in March, 1865, a Major General. All brevet ranks were temporary, and in August, 1865, Smith was mustered out of the service with permanent rank of Colonel of First Maine Cavalry.

Returning to Eastport, Smith began the practice of law, was a member of the Maine Senate in 1866, and served as Colonel and special aide on the staff of Governor Chamberlain, for by that time the hero of Gettysburg had been elected chief executive of Maine.

Apparently army life had appealed to Charles Henry Smith, because in July, 1866, he left the peaceful pursuits of law in Eastport and attendance upon the Governor at Augusta, and accepted a commission as Colonel of the 28th U. S. Infantry, Regular Army. In less than eight months he had risen to the rank of Major General.

General Smith had a lively experience in command of the District of Arkansas, whose settlers were determined to move into the Indian Territory, contrary to treaty agreements. It was Smith's job to keep the squatters out and do it, if possible, without bloodshed. He was so successful that he was transferred to take command, in 1872, of all troops around New Orleans, and he was there through the period of the bloody reconstruction riots. In 1879 he was back in the West, repelling Kansas settlers from invading the Indian Territory.

General Smith retired from active duty in the U. S. Army in 1891, and in 1895 he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He died in Washington on July 18, 1902. In Arlington, amid America's other great and honored dead, lies the body of Charles Henry Smith, Colby, 1856.

No account of Colby's part in the Civil War would be complete without reference to two Waterville brothers, William and Francis Heath. A recruiting
office had been opened on the second floor of the Plaisted block by the Heath
brothers a few weeks after the attack on Fort Sumter, and those boys were them­
selves the first to enlist. William had already enjoyed an adventurous career. 
In 1849, at the age of fifteen, he had accompanied his father across the country
to the gold fields of California by covered wagon. In San Francisco William had
eluded his father and shipped off for Hong Kong. After thrilling adventures in
China, Malaysia, Indonesia, and on the Island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean,
William had sailed around the Cape of Good Hope and across the Atlantic to his
Maine home, more than two years after he had left it. Between his sixteenth
and his eighteenth birthdays William Heath had been completely around the world.
Back in Maine he settled down to academic life and graduated from Waterville
College in 1855.

William's brother Francis had attended the College only one year (1854-55)
and had then gone to work in one of the many enterprises controlled by his lawyer
father, Solyman Heath. When he joined with William to recruit a military com­
pany in 1861, he was just as eager as was his adventurous brother to punish the
rebellious Southerners. In a few days their company had been filled and were
drilling in the Waterville streets. After a brief encampment at the state's mus­
tering center in Augusta, they were accepted into the federal service as Company
H of the Third Maine Infantry, with William Heath as captain and his brother
Francis as first lieutenant.

On July 21, 1861, the company received its baptism of fire at Bull Run. 
By 1863 Francis Heath was a full colonel, in command of the 19th Maine. After
the war he served in both branches of the Maine Legislature, entered the paper
products business, and served as Treasurer of both the Kennebec Fibre Company
and the Somerset Fibre Company until his death in 1897. William Heath served
as Captain of the Third Maine, then was Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifth Maine
when he was killed at the battle of Gaines Mill on June 27, 1862. The Water­
ville post of the Grand Army of the Republic was named in his honor.

One of several Colby men taken prisoner during the war was Charles A.
Hendrickson, 1864. Captured at Bull Run, he spent nearly a year in Libby
and Salisbury prisons, but in 1863 he was exchanged and returned to his Water­
ville home. He immediately enlisted in the Navy and was promoted to ensign.
He miraculously escaped without a scratch when a 15-inch gun on the monitor
Saugus blew up, wounding every man aboard except Hendrickson.

Colby's most celebrated Civil War figure was, of course, Major General Ben­
jamin Franklin Butler, 1838. His story has been told rather fully in an earlier
chapter. Whatever one may think of his political machinations, historians are
agreed that Ben Butler was a military genius. To win that terrible war the Union
certainly needed a few military geniuses, and it is well for Colby graduates to
remember that among the alumni of the little college in Waterville there was
such a man.

FIRST WORLD WAR

The Spanish-American War of 1898 was too short to call many Colby men
into service. It was therefore half a century after the close of the great conflict
over slavery before large numbers of Colby students and alumni were again heed­
ing the call to battle. The effect of that war upon the College, the coming of
the SATC, the ravages of influenza, and influences upon the curriculum have
already been told. As we have done concerning the Civil War, let us now see
what was Colby's contribution to the first world conflict.
When College opened in the fall of 1917 the *Alumnus* proudly pointed to what had already happened.

It will be a source of satisfaction to the graduates and friends of the College to learn that nearly 200 students and alumni have given themselves over to the Government in order to help win the world war for democracy. Colby's part in the Great War will make a page in her history to which succeeding generations of students will turn for their best inspirations.  

Already the 103rd Maine Regiment had claimed a number of Colby men. Spaulding Bisbee, 1913, was Captain of Company B, and Raymond Rogers, 1917, was a lieutenant in Company H. Many students and young alumni had hurried off to Officers Training Camp at Plattsburg, while an even larger number had enlisted in the ranks. A few men, including C. H. Piebes, 1918, were in that strange new organization, the Aviation Corps.

The true historian of Colby in World War I is Dr. Herbert C. Libby, not only because he was at that time editor of the *Alumnus*, but even more because of the voluminous personal correspondence which he carried on with Colby boys in the service. He reported that a total of 645 men served in some capacity during the war. On active duty were 484; in reserve in SATC were 124; and serving with Red Cross, YMCA or other organizations at the front were 37. To the armed services Colby furnished one brigadier general, Herbert M. Lord, 1884; three colonels, two lieutenant colonels, four majors, and nineteen captains. Several Colby men were decorated with service medals or with the French Croix de Guerre.

The names of Colby men who served in the First World War will be found on pages 149 to 159 of Dr. Whittemore's *History of Colby College*.

Eighteen of Colby's sons lost their lives in conflict. First to die was a member of the Canadian forces, Murray Morgan, 1915, who was killed in battle nearly a year before the United States declared war. The first Colby man to die in the American service was George G. Watson, 1917, who fell on December 29th of his graduation year. The names of the immortal eighteen are:

Elvin L. Allen, 1901  
Joseph A. Besse, 1919  
Raymond H. Blades, 1922  
Carleton M. Bliss, 1918  
George N. Bourque, 1918  
Henry L. Curtis, 1912  
Henry L. Eddy, 1917  
Herbert H. Fletcher, 1919  
Hugh Kelley, 1921  
murray A. Morgan, 1915  
Norman J. Merrill, 1914  
Henry B. Pratt, 1918  
Charles A. Sturtevant, 1897  
John A. Stowell, 1918  
Harold B. Taft, 1916  
Edward E. Washburn, 1912  
George G. Watson, 1917  
William A. Weeden, 1912
In the *Alumnus*, Professor Libby made appropriate comparison between World War I and the Civil War when he wrote:

The fellow soldiers of George Bourque have organized themselves into a post and have taken the name of the George N. Bourque Post of the American Legion. No finer tribute could be paid to a gallant soldier whose heroism in the midst of danger was little less than phenomenal. Thus the two army posts in Waterville are named for two brave Colby men—William S. Heath, 1855, killed at Gaines Mill, Virginia, and George N. Bourque, 1918, who died at Toul, France. Heath died at the age of 28; Bourque at the age of 24. Bourque received posthumous citation from General Edwards of the Yankee Division and to his family General Pershing sent a personal letter of sympathy. A signal honor was conferred upon Spaulding Bisbee, 1913, when the King of Italy made him a chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Italy. Not all the honored men were of the combat troops. One of the oldest Colby men in service, a YMCA worker, Archer Palmer of the Class of 1880, was awarded the Croix de Guerre for distinguished bravery in ministering to men at the front.

Between 1917 and 1920, Professor Libby wrote for the *Alumnus* eight continued installments of what he entitled “Colby in the Great War.” Would there were space to publish all of that record here! It is well to know that it is safely enshrined in the bound volumes of the *Alumnus*, carefully preserved in the Colbiana collection of the Colby College Library.

President Roberts summed up Colby’s contribution to the war when, in his baccalaureate sermon on the occasion of the 1920 Centennial, he said: “Our best defense against the perils that assail our national life is the patriotism of our young men—a patriotism grown intense through service and sacrifice. To do one’s best for the country is to do one’s best for Colby.”

**SECOND WORLD WAR**

Before the “Day of Infamy” at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Colby men had already seen action in World War II, and two of them had died. Lt. Jean-Pierre Masse, who had been an exchange student at Colby in 1935, was killed in battle on his native French soil on May 16, 1940, and in the following June, Corporal Paul R. Stubbs had died while on duty guarding the Panama Canal.

As the cold war of 1939 changed into the hot war of 1940, as Holland, Belgium and Norway were invaded, and as France fell before the German onslaught, plans for the defense of the United States were activated. Measures were taken to strengthen the defenses of the Latin American countries, and in June, 1940, Congress voted defense taxes of nearly a billion dollars a year. A Permanent Board of Defense was arranged with Canada. On September 16, 1940, Congress passed the Selective Training and Service Act, the first peacetime program of compulsory military service ever adopted by the nation. It provided for the registration of all men between 21 and 35, and for one-year training of 1,200,000 troops and 800,000 reserves. In August, 1941, service was extended to eighteen months.

When the Japanese bombers struck at Pearl Harbor, many Colby men were already in service, either as training officers from the reserve, or as draftees under the selective service program. So many of them were stationed at Camp Blanding,
Florida, that a Colby Alumni Association could well have been formed at the post. At that camp were Col. Spaulding Bisbee, 1913, commanding officer of the 103d Infantry, 43d Division; Col. John F. Choate, 1920, in command of the 152d Field Artillery; Lt. Col. Harold C. Marden, 1921, of the Headquarters Staff of the 43d Division; Lt. Col. George W. Putnam, 1916, 152d Field Artillery; Major Byron H. Smith, 1916, of the same unit; Captain W. B. McAllister, 1926, of the 172d Field Artillery; and Captain Charles E. Towne, 1928, of the Medical Detachment, 103d Infantry. Other Colby men at the same camp included four lieutenants, three sergeants, six corporals, and five privates.

When the United States finally declared war, the *Alumnus* had this to say:

This College was conceived during the War of 1812; it was decimated and nearly succumbed in the Civil War; it was dislocated, battered, thrown off stride by the First World War; and now once again Colby must take its battle station. War is a setback to all normal constructive enterprises; it demands sacrifices, and Colby claims no exemption. If our normal program and cherished goal to move to Mayflower Hill must be set aside for the duration, so be it. Let no man think that Colby will go into eclipse. There will always be a Colby.

In January, 1942, only a few weeks after Pearl Harbor, the *Alumnus* reported 136 Colby men in service: 100 in the Army, 32 in the Navy, 3 in the Marines, and one in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Already promoted to lieutenant, junior grade, in Naval Aviation was Whitney Wright, 1937, who would make this service his professional career. Six months before the 1942 Commencement, fifteen members of that class were in service, five of them as commissioned officers. The Class of 1943 already had eight men on active duty, and the Class of 1944 had seven.

One Colby man, Norris Potter, 1929, wrote an eye-witness account of the attack on Pearl Harbor:

When the attack came on December 7, I happened to be on the spot. A Marine officer and I were on our way into the Yard, where we expected to board a boat for a reconnaissance of the coastline. Our first intimation of trouble was a machine-gun bullet which came through the roof and splintered a chair beside us, while we were drinking coffee in a shop. We didn't finish the coffee. When we got on to the road, we saw one Jap plane coming down in flames and we heard heavy detonations. After a race of 35 miles through fields of sugar cane, we reached the depot, where we found everybody on battle stations. Later in the morning our barracks were machine-gunned. We are methodically preparing for the next attack, when we hope to provide quite a different reception.

Potter did not say a word about the terrific destruction of American ships. When he wrote his letter, the extent of that destruction was being carefully concealed from the American public.

During World War II a total of 1350 Colby men and women were in the armed services. They represented every branch of the service in every theatre of the war's wide activities. Nor were students and alumni the only ones who served. Nine members of the faculty, three of whom were alumni, left their campus duties to serve in the ranks: two of them were in the Air Force, three
in the Navy, two in the Infantry, one in the Military Police, and one a Physical Instructor.

A large proportion of Colby personnel in the service were commissioned officers. Several, entering the enlisted ranks as privates, were mustered out as captains. A total of 123 men were awarded decorations. Eight received the Legion of Merit, 29 the Bronze Star, 16 the Distinguished Flying Cross, 24 the Air Medal, four the Silver Star, two the Certificate of Merit, two the Croix de Guerre, and one each the Navy Cross, the Navy Air Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, and the Soldiers Medal. For wounds received in action 34 Colby men were awarded the Purple Heart.

Colby students and alumni who died as members of service units in the Second World War totaled 61, and to those should be added two names of Colby persons who were just as truly war casualties as were any who served in arms. Those two were Francis Rose, 1909, and his wife Gertrude Coombs Rose, 1911, missionaries in the Philippines, who were executed by the Japanese on December 20, 1943. For the first time in any American war, women were included in the casualty lists. In addition to Mrs. Rose, two Colby women died in the service: Alice Manley, 1938, a WAC, and Ann Westing, 1944, a WAVE.

Following are the names of Colby's 63 casualties, including those of the three women and of Francis Rose.

Frank Bailey, 1942
Fred Blumenthal, 1940
Ralph Bradley, 1923
David Bruckheimer, 1947
John Casper, 1931
Harold Costley, 1942
Richard Crocker, 1946
Forrest Edson, 1942
Howard Goodman, 1939
Harrison Gorman, 1943
Donald Gray, 1943
Robert Gray, 1943
William Guptill, 1941
William Hancock, 1920
Arnold Holt, 1937
Harold Johnson, 1942
Francis Johnson, 1942
Frank Kastner, 1946
Gerald Katzman, 1946
John Kitchen, 1942
Robert LaFleur, 1943
Herbert Levenson, 1945
Walter Lupton, 1946
William Lyman, Jr., 1945
Edward McIntyre, 1939
Roderick MacDougal, 1931
John McCarley, 1944
Charles Maguire, 1940
Victor Malins, 1939
Alice Manley, 1938
Tiffany Manning, 1939
Myron Mantell, 1941
Jean-Pierre Masse, 1935
Leonard Murphy, 1941
Paul Murphy, 1943
Arnold Myshrall, 1941
George Neilson, 1941
George Nelson, 1940
Richard Noyes, 1941
John Pendleton, Jr., 1939
Phillips Pierce, 1945
Gilbert Potts, 1942
Frank Quincy, 1943
Francis Rose, 1909
Gertrude Rose, 1911
Howard Rowell, 1943
Harold Sachs, 1921
James Salisbury, 1939
Frederick Sawyer, 1937
Clarence Simmons, 1937
Richard Simpson, 1945
Roger Soper, 1937
John Stevens, 1942
Paul Stubbs, 1942
Norman Taylor, 1937
Lyman Thayer, Jr., 1946
Elmer Tower, Jr., 1942
Robert Turbyne, 1937
Robert Wescott, 1945
Ann Westing, 1944
Eugene Williams, 1938
Robert Wit, 1942
Raymond Zavaglia, 1946

Three Colby men lost their lives in the Korean War:

David Dobson, 1950
Charles Graham, 1940
John Thompson, 1951

Several Colby men suffered the miseries of prison camps in Germany or Japan. Among them were Howard Pratt, 1943; William Hancock, Jr., 1942; Sherwood Jones, 1947; Raymond Zavaglia, 1946; Russell Farnsworth, Jr., 1946; Robert Gray, 1943; Harland Thompson, 1945; Robert Lucy, 1945; and Floyd Harding, 1946. One of these men, at least, escaped from a prison camp. He was Hancock, who, taken prisoner in Italy, got away, only to be picked up by Germans, from whose camp he also escaped and after thrilling adventures made his way back to his own unit.

Hairbreadth escapes were not confined to Colby men in uniform. When the Japanese invaded Burma, Gordon Gates, Colby 1919, was professor of biology at Judson College, Rangoon. Fleeing with other Americans and British, Gates made his way to India, making a long trek of 170 miles through jungle trails and over 9000-foot passes.

During the war this historian, who was then Dean of Men, carried on correspondence with many Colby boys in the service. One such exchange of letters stands out vividly in his memory, because it typifies the links which Colby had established all over the globe during the 140 years since the first graduate,
George Dana Boardman, had gone to the very land from which Gordon Gates made his escape from the Japanese.

This particular correspondence was carried on with a Colby marine stationed in Iceland. Not only was he desperately homesick; he had so many idle hours that he was completely bored. He asked for a shipment of books—good, sound books of English and American classics. He got them. But what troubled him most was the coldness of the Icelanders, colder than the climate. They weren't hostile to the Americans, but they wouldn't fraternize with them. Icelandic homes couldn't be visited, Icelandic girls couldn't be dated, and there was no social life at all for those ice-bound marines.

Remembering that, in the Class of 1932, there had been a native Icelander, the Dean wrote to Martin Sorensen, who replied that Icelanders are really a cordial, friendly people, but that the war had impoverished the island. “It is unthinkable,” said Sorensen, “for an Icelander to invite a stranger into his home without offering him food, and in Iceland today there just isn’t enough food.” But Sorensen enclosed a letter in Icelandic, addressed to his brother in Reykjavik, commending the young Colby marine to the brother’s attention. The Dean sent that letter on to the Colby boy. In a few weeks there came a reply. Icelanders were no longer icebergs; instead they were wonderful people. Why? Because the Icelandic home of one Colby man of an earlier college generation had been opened to another Colby man in the armed services.

On February 13, 1945, the *S. S. Colby Victory* was launched at the Terminal Island Yards of the California Shipbuilding Corporation. Present were Dr. George G. Averill, who spoke for the Colby Trustees, Denis Bowman, 1893, Mrs. Dora Knight Andrews, 1892, and Wallace Bruce, 1886.

A Colby woman who lived through both the occupation and liberation of her native France was Jeanne Peyrot, 1936. Getting her degree at the Sorbonne in 1940, she was teaching at Beaune, Côte d'Or, when the Germans crushed the French armies and became masters of the country. She wrote in 1945:

Life was not pleasant during those long years of the German occupation. But I managed to live and keep out of concentration camps and Gestapo prisons. And I managed to teach English and make my girls love it. Mother stayed with me at Beaune, so that she was not in Paris when the capital was liberated. I think she’ll regret it all her life: not being there when the Germans were kicked out, when Leclerc's soldiers came in, when General deGaulle at last arrived. Beaune was freed on September 9. It certainly was one of the happiest days of my life. To watch the Germans retreating and our soldiers from Africa advancing was a wonderful sight. How we managed not to be killed in our exodus from Paris in 1940, I don't know. It was sheer luck. All along our route the German bombing of stations and railways and their machine-gunning of roads occurred just twelve hours after we had left. But I won't speak of that any more. It's past.

Many Colby service men were in the Pacific theatre when the Japanese surrendered. Among them was Norman Palmer, 1930, who wrote from Iwo Jima:

We didn't celebrate much when the news came of the Japanese surrender, but we were mightily relieved nevertheless. I was at CINCPAC headquarters on Guam when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and I was on Iwo when President Truman announced the Japs' ac-
The \textit{Blue Beetle}, reminder of many 'tween-campus trips.

\textbf{From the Old to the New}

Removing to the Hill one of the oldest relics, the College fence.

The old campus to be sold to benefit commercial Waterville.
SATC in World War I (top); and CTD in World War II.
"Pop" Newman and women of the SCA sending letters to Colby men in the service, World War II (top); and ROTC on parade.
Memorials

Civil War: Lion of Lucerne

World War II: Flagpole

World War I: Woodman Stadium
The Colby Community Symphony Orchestra in rehearsal

Exhibition of the Rockefeller Seal Harbor Collection in the art gallery

Chamber music at the President's house
Industry and the railroad stifled the old campus, and the citizens of Waterville presented Colby with the Mayflower Hill land.
A student in the Lane Room in Mary Low Hall

Old-timers and President Johnson look over the new campus.

The Chapel seen through the west doorway of Miller Library.
Colby is used year round; in summer the language schools and institutes people the campus and the Outing Club Lodge (top) and the Adult Recreation Center, both on Great Pond.
ceptance of surrender terms. On V-J Day I was over the once-great Jap Island Fortress of Truk. On V-J Day plus four I flew over the heart of Japan for three hours, from Nagoya to Tokyo. The devastation is utterly incredible. Almost all of downtown Tokyo, except for the grounds around the Imperial Palace, which were deliberately spared, is gone. My respect for the B-29s is boundless, but I hope that never again shall we be compelled to resort to mass destruction.

Norman Palmer’s note is appropriate for the end of this chapter. In three great wars Colby men have met the call to duty with courage and sacrifice. May they never again be either victims or perpetrators of mass destruction!
WATERVILLE COLLEGE had graduated twenty-five classes before there was any formal organization of alumni. That an earlier informal organization existed is shown by the printed copy of an address delivered before "the Associated Alumni of Waterville College" by John Holmes on July 28, 1831. No records of that earlier organization survive, and we suspect it was temporary.

On the occasion of Commencement in 1847, a meeting of alumni was called for the purpose of forming an association. Selected to draft a constitution were Crosby Hinds, 1838, of Sebasticook and Stephen Coburn, 1839, of Bloomfield.1 A year later, at the Commencement of 1848, "the alumni of Waterville College met in the President's recitation room at 8½ o'clock A.M." The constitution was adopted and officers were elected. The first president was Martin B. Anderson, 1840, who was founder and for 37 years the first president of the University of Rochester. The secretary was James H. Hanson, 1842, the distinguished principal of Coburn. At its very first meeting was begun the annual custom of reading a necrology for the year—a custom that continued well into the twentieth century.

At first not all graduates were automatically members of the Alumni Association of Waterville College, but only those who signed their names in the secretary's book. That original book is preserved. It contains 230 names, ranging in classes from 1823 to 1875. The first signer was Henry Paine, 1823, and the last name in the book is one greatly honored in Colby history—Leslie C. Cornish, 1875, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court, and chairman of the College Trustees.

There are other memorable names in the old record book: the first of many Coburns, Stephen of the Class of 1839; the first of the long line of Merriams, Mylon, also 1839; Nathaniel Butler, 1842, father of a Colby president; Moses Lyford, 1843, Colby's first astronomer; Josiah, first of the Drummonds, 1846; the great jurist, William Penn Whitehouse, 1863; the first of the four John Fosters of successive generations, John B., 1843, Colby's beloved professor of Greek; Edward W. Hall, 1862, librarian and necrologist, and his classmate, Richard Cutts Shannon, builder of South American railroads and donor of Colby's Shannon Laboratories; George B., the first of many llisleys, 1863; and William S. Heath, 1856, for whom Waterville's GAR Post was named.

From the earliest days of the College, the Commencement Dinner was an annual event. To it, in 1853 was added the Alumni Luncheon. Dues were then established, when it was voted "to assess on each member an annual tax of one dollar."
The annual meetings were held in various public halls in Waterville. For instance, in 1862 the “repast” was served in the Hall of the Sons of Temperance. The record does not tell us whether the members were content with water or had something like the tepid ginger ale that graced the tables in the old gymnasium in the 1920's. No large hall was required for the gatherings. As late as 1872 it was recorded: “This meeting was larger than any ever held before, about fifty members being present.” Not until the turn of the century did as many as a hundred alumni attend the annual meeting.

If they were few in number, the members of that early association were strong on deeds. They procured portraits of presidents, trustees, and benefactors; they furnished a special classroom for the president of the College; they gave generously to the struggling library. But their major effort came as a result of the Civil War. A conventional memorial, in the form of a statue, had been suggested. Determined to have something better, the Alumni Association voted to give energetic effort to raising funds for building a memorial hall. It was the first such action to be taken by any college alumni group in the country. The result was the erection of the beautiful, ivy-decked building on the old campus which so long housed chapel and library, and where was enshrined Milmore’s graceful copy of Thorwaldsen’s Lion of Lucerne. At their meeting in 1869 the Association voted “to commend the committee that supervised the erection of Memorial Hall and request them to furnish it with blinds.”

The practice of honoring the 25 year class began in 1865 with the reunion of the Class of 1840. Not until seven years later could there be any fiftieth class reunion, and then there would be no members to assemble, because both Boardman and Tripp of the Class of 1822 had died. At the meeting in 1865, when the 25 year class was first honored, three Civil War generals who were Colby graduates were made members of the committee to consider an appropriate memorial, and it was their later recommendation that resulted in Memorial Hall and the Lion of Lucerne. Those generals were Harris M. Plaisted, 1853, Charles H. Smith, 1856, and Russell B. Shepherd, 1857.

It was the Alumni Association that engaged Professor Hall to compile the first General Catalogue in 1878. Its title page was appropriately in Latin, and we refuse to insult any Colby graduate by translating it. “Catalogus Senatus Academici et eorum qui munirent et officio generunt, quique alicuius gradus laurea donati sunt, in Universitate Colbiana, Watervillae in Republica Mainensi, MDCCCLXXVIII.”

When that catalogue appeared, all members of the first three classes (1822, 1823, and 1824) had died. But still living were three members of the Class of 1825: Benjamin Hobart, a lumber dealer of Edmunds, Maine; John Hovey, postmaster of Danby, Michigan; and Harrison Avery Smith, a lawyer of Kalamazoo, Michigan. In Elijah Lovejoy’s class of 1826, the living members were Albert Getchell, a prominent Maine attorney, Albert Jewett, a U. S. diplomat, and Ebenezer Merrick, a Baptist minister. The total number of graduates in 1878 was 609, of whom 438 were living. Nearly a third of the total, 196, had entered the ministry.

As early as 1873 the Alumni Association clamored for representation on the Board of Trustees. A committee of the Board, after conference with a committee of alumni, reported that it was the wish of the latter “to have some cooperating influence in the management of the affairs of the University.” The Board refused to take affirmative action, but the Association was somewhat molli-
fied when it was pointed out that a large majority of the Board were graduates of the College.

The effort was renewed in 1886, when the alumni asked for direct representation on the Board by the Association's election of two trustees in each of the three classes of board membership. Again a trustee committee investigated, and in 1887 made the following recommendations which the Trustees then adopted:

The charter lodges in this Board the power of filling vacancies and of filling the places of trustees as their terms expire, and this power cannot be delegated in whole or in part, and the present members of the Board cannot bind their successors by any arrangement which can be made. Therefore any plan by which the alumni shall have any voice in the election of trustees must be based upon the voluntary action of the Board at each election. But we believe the Board will, at any time, be glad to meet the wishes of the alumni, and the latter are invited to present to this Board annually the names of those gentlemen whom they desire to have elected as members of the Board.

Responding to this invitation, the Alumni Association nominated three men in 1888. The Trustees accepted two of them, so that Larkin Dunton, 1855, and Leslie C. Cornish, 1875, became the first trustees nominated officially by the alumni. Although the Association again presented three names in 1889, the Board elected only one, Richard C. Shannon, 1862. When three names were again submitted in 1890, the Trustees chose only Edwin Lyford, 1877.

The situation dragged along until the turn of the century, when the alumni cause was supported vigorously by a trustee who himself was not a Colby graduate. Joseph Lincoln Colby, son of benefactor Gardner Colby, had been made a trustee in 1897. He had attended Harvard for two years, and then gone into mining and railway construction. After Gardner Colby's death in 1879, the family had been represented on the Waterville Board by Gardner Roberts Colby, 1879 to 1889, and Charles Lewis Colby, 1889 to 1896. When Joseph Colby succeeded Charles in 1897, he was already friendly with several prominent alumni of the College, including Col. Shannon.

In 1901 Colby wrote to Leslie Cornish, then secretary of the Trustees, that the alumni were spreading severe criticism of the Board. The graduates complained that they were not given proper representation, that they were refused information, and that the Board's actions were causing loss of public confidence and hence loss of financial support. Mr. Colby suggested that the alumni deserved direct representation and asked for opportunity to talk the matter over with Cornish.

The result of that conference was that, in June, 1902, on motion of Mr. Colby, the Trustees voted to ascertain what legislation was necessary to enable the Alumni Association legally to elect members of the Board of Trustees. In January, 1903, when the Maine Legislature had convened, the Trustees voted approval of the plan by which the college charter would be amended so that nine trustees would be elected by the Alumni Association, to be known as Alumni Trustees, and to be elected three each year for terms of three years. The charter was duly amended by the Legislature on March 11, 1903. (See Appendix P.) The first alumni trustees elected under the amended charter were Asher C. Hinds, 1883, Clarence E. Meleney, 1876, and Allen P. Soule, 1879. In 1917 the charter was again amended to provide for ten alumni trustees, in five classes, with five year terms. In 1931, when the alumnae were at last granted represen-
tation, the charter was further amended to provide for the election of two alumni and one alumna each year for terms of three years.

There is much evidence, besides Mr. Colby's letter to Leslie Cornish, that the alumni were not enthusiastic about the College during the first decade of this century. President White was much concerned about it. He wrote to Dr. Buttrick of the General Education Board: "There has been for many years a noticeable apathy on the part of the Colby alumni, largely explained, I believe, by the gradual increase in the number of women and the fear that it may become a woman's college." Col. Shannon, eager to arouse the alumni to greater interest in the College, suggested that Professor Hall prepare a new edition of the General Catalogue, and Shannon agreed to stand the full expense of its publication. That catalogue appeared in 1909, but two years earlier Hall had provided for White's annual report some interesting statistics.

In the 85 classes that had received diplomas from 1822 to 1906 there had been 1292 men, of whom 707 had graduated since 1875. The decline in men's enrollment is shown by the startling fact that in no year since 1898 had the number of male graduates been as large as in seven of the years between 1880 and 1895. In fact the graduating men in 1839, 1847, 1855, and 1857 numbered more than in 1904. The tabulation of men graduates by decades tells an interesting story: 1830-1839, 114; 1840-1849, 118; 1850-1859, 123; 1860-1869, 112; 1870-1879, 120; 1880-1889, 239; 1890-1899, 257; 1900-1909, 217.

By 1907 the alumni who became career teachers outnumbered the ministers, 289 to 277, and the number of lawyers, 227, was not far behind the clergymen. A goodly number of graduates had achieved national prominence. Four had been governors of states, eight members of Congress, eight presidents of colleges, fourteen judges in state courts. Seven had become manufacturers of nationally distributed products, and no fewer than forty had edited newspapers. While twelve alumni had gone into insurance and one was a broker, not a single graduate was then listed in advertising. Before the end of Colby's first century her alumni were widely distributed. In 1907 they were living in forty-one states, the District of Columbia, and five foreign countries.

As indicated in a previous chapter, the first woman had received her Colby degree in 1875. In the 32 classes between that date and 1906, the women graduates totaled 219. In the first twenty of those years their number was only 59, and in the first ten years there had been only 14. Never except in a single year, 1902, had the graduating women numbered as many as 16. Nevertheless, since 1900 the number of girls in each class was too close to the number of men to please the apprehensive alumni. The Class of 1902 had 22 men and 16 women; 1903 had 25 men and 13 women; 1904 had 16 men and 10 women; and 1905 had 24 men and 14 women.

Before Arthur Roberts became President in 1908, the Alumni Association had already done much besides winning representation on the Board of Trustees. They had financed the first General Catalogue in 1878, had erected a wooden grandstand on the athletic field, had played a prominent part in securing for Colby a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and had taken a leading part in both the fiftieth and the seventy-fifth anniversaries.

Fraternity politics, well-known in student affairs, entered alumni circles in 1890. The Association records tell us: "It was found that those who had received the largest votes for office in the association were indebted to an electioneering document sent out by students, asking members of their society to vote
for those persons. An exciting discussion ensued, and this undergraduate attempt to interfere with the business of the alumni was severely denounced.”

Until 1913 only graduates of the College were accepted as members of the Association; yet it had long been apparent that some of Colby's most loyal sons had left college without the degree. The constitution was therefore amended to admit non-graduates as associate members, but denying them the right to vote for alumni trustees. It was not until 1927 that non-graduates were granted full rights.

Secretaries of the Alumni Association had long tenure, only six of them serving a total of 65 years. For more than a third of that time the office had been held by Edward W. Hall, 1862, who served for 26 years. Frank W. Alden, 1898, held the office for ten years; Charles E. Hamlin, 1847, and Ernest C. Mariner, 1913, each for nine years; Edwin C. Whittemore, 1879, for six years; and John B. Foster, 1843, for five years.


Long before the Centennial each graduating class had sent more alumni into teaching than into the ministry. It was not until 1928, however, that the influence of the Department of Business Administration came strongly to be felt. Then, for the first time, the number going immediately into business exceeded those who entered teaching.

By 1925 there had arisen a demand for a full-time alumni secretary. Professor Libby sounded the clarion cry in the Alumnus.

Let the College pay half the expenses and the Alumni Association half, and an Alumni Secretary becomes an established thing. Here we have nearly 4000 graduates and non-graduates scattered over the world. Every one of them should be tied to the College by the strongest bonds. An Alumni Secretary of the right type, travelling hither and yon, taking in all alumni and alumnae gatherings, carrying the message of the new and greater Colby to each and all, what could he not accomplish? All this work is quite beyond the President of the College. He ought not to be called upon to enter such an endurance test. It is for a young man to do, a young man of enthusiasm, striking personality, and vision. The Alumni Association could accomplish no greater good than to urge the Trustees to create such an office.  

Nothing came of this plea for five years, but at last in 1930 President Johnson announced that Joseph Coburn Smith, 1924, had been engaged in the dual capacity of Alumni Secretary and Publicity Agent. In addition to keeping records of the alumni, Smith would assist in organizing the development campaign for Mayflower Hill. It should be remembered that the stultifying effects of a national depression were beginning to be felt. Had it not been for that faithful friend of the College, Mrs. Eleanora Woodman, even a part-time secretary could not have been provided. President Johnson told the Trustees in April, 1930: “Through the generosity of Mrs. Woodman, Joseph Smith has been acting as alumni secretary since February. He has also taken charge of the college publicity with
noticeable success. I do not see how we ever got on without such an officer, and I hope ways may be found to continue his services."

A year later it had become apparent that, despite the depression, Joe Smith's full time should be devoted to publicity and promotion. The time had come for an officer to have no other duties than that of Alumni Secretary. What happened was acclaimed in the *Alumnus* in the summer of 1931.

Year after year the *Alumnus* has strongly urged the appointment of an Alumni Secretary. It has never felt that the Alumni Association as such was doing very wonderful work. Simply to meet once a year, listen to speeches, and pass a few votes, then disband for another year except for meeting in small groups over the country, is not a program over which one can get wildly excited. The decision to appoint an Alumni Secretary has now been made. A most capable young man, in the person of G. Cecil Goddard, 1929, has been selected. It now remains for the officers of the association to map out a program to be accomplished. The Secretary should be expected to organize a good many Colby clubs in various towns and cities, and he should meet with those groups every year. He should, through the *Alumnus* and other channels, keep in touch with the great host of Colby men.

The year 1933 saw the birth of the Alumni Council. This group was made necessary, not only to act on alumni matters between meetings of the Association, but also to supervise the Alumni Fund, which had been Goddard's first outstanding contribution as secretary. Started late in the college year—March, 1933—the infant fund had brought in a modest $2,918, not so much as President Roberts had sometimes raised with his annual Christmas appeal. But it was a good start on a permanent feature of alumni activities. In fact President Johnson was able to tell the Trustees in November, 1933: "The alumni office was last year underwritten by the Trustees in the amount of $3000. This has now been returned to the College treasury through the Alumni Fund, and the office will henceforth be self-sustaining."

The Alumni Council was established by amending the Association's constitution to provide for a council of twelve members elected from the alumni at large, and as ex-officio members the President of the Association and its Secretary, the ranking alumni member of the Athletic Council, a representative of the faculty, and a member from each organized local association. The amended constitution also provided for a special committee to nominate alumni trustees, who would be elected by mailed ballot sent to all association members.

In its first year the Alumni Fund secured subscriptions from 539 alumni living in 29 states and six foreign countries. Contributions came from 61 classes, three of which were represented one hundred percent. For many years annual dues had been solicited from the alumni. With the inauguration of the Alumni Fund, dues were abandoned. Not all payers of dues easily transferred their habit to the Fund, for 336 of those who had paid dues in 1931-32 did not contribute to the Fund in the following year.

In its second year the Fund raised $3552 from alumni and $1425 from other sources, a total of $5027. There were 672 contributors, averaging $7.48 each. Added were 253 new givers, but 120 of the previous year's contributors did not repeat. The percentage of all alumni contributing had risen from twenty to twenty-three.
After five years of increasingly successful work by Goddard and the Alumni Council, President Johnson felt the time had come to place alumni activities in the annual college budget. He told the Trustees that the Council had contributed in many ways to the College, that most colleges made budget provision for the entire support of the alumni office, and that it was the experience of such colleges to see the annual amount turned into the college treasury far exceed the cost of the office. On recommendation of the Alumni Council, strongly supported by Johnson, the Trustees voted in November, 1938, to authorize the Treasurer to pay, for the fiscal year 1938-39, the expenses of the Alumni Office, with the understanding that the Alumni Fund should be turned over to the College without restriction. They also voted to appoint a committee to study the future relations between the College and the Alumni and Alumnae associations, for the purpose of recommending a permanent policy at the June meeting. To make that study the chairman of the Board appointed Dr. Frederick T. Hill, Miss Florence Dunn, Dr. George G. Averill, Frank B. Hubbard, and Neil Leonard.

Sixteen years after the first woman had graduated, a number of Colby women decided they should have an organization similar to that of the men. Under the leadership of Miss Louise Coburn, 1877, there was hence formed in 1891 the Colby Alumnae Association. The Trustees had permitted girls to enroll in the College but were reluctant to spend money for their needs. It was therefore the organized Colby Alumnae who, for more than a quarter of a century, saw to it that Colby girls received some respectable attention in financial considerations. The Association provided furnishings for more gracious living, put on a successful campaign for physical education in the Women's Division, and provided the first successful loan fund in the College. Even more notable achievements, including erection of the Alumnae Building, raising funds for the Women's Union, and securing recognition from the American Association of University Women, have been recorded in a previous chapter.

In 1935 President Johnson remarked that Colby women had set the precedent of making small annual gifts to the College long before the men had started the Alumni Fund.

In 1916 the Alumnae Association had set up a committee to advise and assist the Dean of Women. It was that group which later became the Alumnae Council, a body comparable to the Alumni Council of the men. In 1930 they employed their first Alumnae Secretary, Miss Alice Purinton, 1899. In 1934 she was succeeded by Ervena (Mrs. Joseph C.) Goodale Smith, 1924, who directed the office through the crucial years of fund raising for Mayflower Hill, and who spearheaded the successful campaign for the Women's Union.

There thus existed a dual organization in 1938: an Alumni Association with an executive secretary, Cecil Goddard; and an Alumnae Association employing as its secretary Mrs. Ervena Smith. The trustee committee headed by Dr. F. T. Hill made its report at the annual meeting of the Board in June, 1939. In response to the committee's recommendations, the Trustees voted:

The College shall provide in its budget for a joint Alumni and Alumnae Office, with an Alumni Secretary and an associate secretary, who shall be from the alumnae; the College to assume the financial responsibility for the salaries of the above secretaries and for clerical help and other expenses necessary to maintain the office. The two secretaries shall be college officers, responsible to the President and the Trustees of the College, to be elected by the Trustees from nominations made by the respective councils. All funds received from the Alumni and Alumnae Councils shall accrue directly to the College, with the pro-
vision that each council shall have the privilege of making suggestions as to the spending of any money raised by them over and above the amount necessary to carry on their proportionate share of the expense of the office. The Alumni and Alumnae Councils shall retain their separate identities and hold separate meetings, except when some common problem arises. The Alumni Office shall be a joint office, avoiding unnecessary duplication, and it is charged with the keeping of alumni and alumnae records and statistics, the publication of the Alumni magazine, the conduct of alumni and alumnae funds, and all other graduate activities pertinent to the College.

G. Cecil Goddard became Executive Secretary of the combined office, and Mrs. Ervena Smith was named as his associate. Although working in a single office and cooperating fully, Goddard and Mrs. Smith actually represented two different associations until near the end of World War II. In May, 1944, a group of representatives from alumni and alumnae met in the Women's Union for the purpose of organizing a joint Colby Alumni Association and Council. The summer issue of the Alumnus told the story.

Neil Leonard reported as chairman of the Committee on proposed organization. He said that in Portland, in October 1943, the Alumni Council had suggested to the Alumnae Council that a joint association be formed to replace the present separate associations. Committees of both councils had subsequently approved a plan of merger, calling for a single Alumni Council made up of both men and women. Both associations had voted to accept the recommendations, had dissolved their own associations, and had agreed to form a single organization known as the Alumni Association of Colby College.

The meeting then voted to organize the new association, and as a nominating committee there were chosen Raymond Spinney, 1921, Lester Weeks, 1915, Eleanor Marriner, 1910, and Alice Good, 1911. On their nomination Bernard Esters, 1921, was elected the first chairman of the merged council, with Mrs. Ruth Hamilton Whittemore, 1912, as vice-chairman. Cecil Goddard was made Executive Secretary. The council consisted of four men and three women elected at large, divided into three groups, for three year terms, besides two men and one woman in each group to be elected by the council itself. Certain other representatives in the old council were also retained.

In 1944, despite rigors caused by the war, the Alumni Fund brought to the College nearly thirty thousand dollars. The graduates had learned the truth of President Roberts' remark: "It is by giving rather than by getting that love and loyalty grow." When the Council met in the fall of 1945, they learned that their united efforts had brought in more than $61,000 during the year—$30,000 in unrestricted gifts to the Alumni Fund, $21,000 in restricted gifts, $2800 in subscriptions and advertising to the Alumnus, $4100 for the Roberts Union, $1400 for the Women's Union, and nearly $700 for the Alumni Loan Fund.

In 1946 the Council consisted of 53 members, of whom 18 had been elected at large and nine by the Council itself. Both the faculty and the Colby Athletic Council had a representative. Twenty-four represented local Colby associations or clubs scattered throughout the United States. That the merger had not yet made universal appeal is shown by the fact that on the Council the alumni and alumnae of Portland had separate representation. The same was true of Hart-
ford, and in Boston there were three represented groups: the Boston Alumni, the Boston Alumnae, and the Boston Colby Club. Several years elapsed before Colby men and women in Portland, Hartford and Boston held joint meetings.

As has already been mentioned, the annual alumni luncheon was a time-honored Commencement event. Its companion meal, held in another building, was the alumnae luncheon, and it frequently became the duty of the President of the College and the Chairman of the Trustees to hedge-hop between the two meetings. Thus a man did occasionally address the assembled alumnae, but never until the 1944 merger did a woman appear at a sacred gathering of the alumni. Ever since the change to weekend commencements, Saturday had been designated as Alumni Day, and that practice was retained after the merger of the two associations. After the end of World War II the joint alumni luncheon became a significant event. With the chairman of the Alumni Council presiding, speeches from class representatives have been limited to the fifty and the twenty-five year classes, and the graduating class. The chairman of the Alumni Fund has announced the result of the year’s contributions, the President of the College has given a thrilling address, and the Council has made its annual awards.

Those awards have been the unique way in which the Alumni Council has honored individual graduates of the College, both men and women. To those selected for meritorious service to the College have been presented Colby bricks, made from the same special material designed for the Mayflower Hill buildings. To graduates who have been elected to head state or national organizations have been given Colby gavels.

In 1946 the Council inaugurated an Alumni College, to be held for several days immediately following Commencement. The first year’s attendance was 35; in 1947 it was 51; it was somewhat lower in 1948, and was then discontinued.

In 1949 Cecil Goddard resigned the secretaryship to become head of a prominent insurance agency in Waterville. Ellsworth “Bill” Millett, 1925, the man who has long been affectionately known as “Mr. Colby,” became Alumni Secretary. The change was a hard decision for “Bill” to make. Long a member of the staff in Athletics and Physical Education, he was reluctant to leave the “gym,” but he was a loyal alumnus who heeded the call of duty. Nor did his direction of the Alumni Office mean that he lost his interest in Colby sports. On the contrary, he became their vigorous spokesman at alumni gatherings.

For many years the Colby Alumnus, although stoutly representing the alumni, had not been under the control of the Association. Started by Charles P. Chipman and continued by Herbert C. Libby, it had consistently presented to the graduates the achievements and the needs of the College. It had been the organ for every fund appeal from the Centennial campaign to the early solicitations for Mayflower Hill; it had persisted in the appeal for higher faculty salaries; and it had called attention to the achievements of Colby men and women all over the land.

It will be recalled that, when they set up the joint office in 1939, the Trustees had laid down as one function of that office “the publication of the alumni magazine.” The Association had actually taken over control of the Alumnus in 1934, soon after Cecil Goddard became secretary. Its publication was placed in the hands of a committee of alumni, with one man designated as editor. After a period of such supervision, under Oliver Hall and Harland Ratcliffe, both experienced newspaper men, responsibility for the publication was placed in the publicity office, and during the fifth decade of this century it was ably edited by Joseph C. Smith. When Smith left the College in 1949, to become an executive
of the public relations firm of Marts and Lundy in New York, Spencer Winsor, 1940, edited the *Alumnus* for a year until it came into the able hands of the new Director of Public Relations, Richard Dyer. Though not a Colby man, Dyer soon identified himself with the College and made the *Alumnus* outstanding among graduate magazines in the nation.

Until 1950 the *Alumnus* had been sent only to individual subscribers. In that year the Alumni Council voted to send the magazine to all living graduates and non-graduates of Colby, and since that date it has been the true voice of Colby men and women all over the world.

It had been a long journey, with many headaches, that had finally brought cooperation between men and women graduates. In fact, a part of the story of Colby's gradual and sometimes thorny change from a men's college to coordination, and onward to complete coeducation is the story of the tardiness with which the graduates realized what was already happening in this respect on the campus.

In 1901 the male association voted: "We favor the policy of two separate colleges, one for men and one for women, to be established as soon as conditions will permit." In 1904 the Alumni Association sent the following memorial to the Trustees:

> It has been reported that it is the purpose of your honorable body to erect a ladies' dormitory on the lot now occupied by the Dutton House on College Avenue. The Alumni Association, while it has no means of officially knowing the facts, desires to place itself on record as opposed to such action. In view of the relations that exist between this association and your honorable body and in view of the fact that the future of both the men's and the women's colleges is involved, we respectfully ask that the proposed women's dormitory be not erected on College Avenue, but that its erection be deferred until it can be placed upon grounds adequate for a complete women's college and farther removed from the Colby campus.

It was 1908 when Arthur Roberts first attended an alumni meeting as head of the College. Quite aware of the predominant feeling that enrollment of women was turning the institution into a woman's college, he said: "Give me boys! I would rather have you send me boys than a check for a thousand dollars."

When the Alumnae started their campaign for a Health and Recreation building for the girls in the early 1920's, they met at first with resistance, then with only tolerance from the men. Alumni leaders felt the women were getting in the way of their major campaign for a new gymnasium and other facilities for the men.

Gradually, however, the patience and persistence of such women as Dean Ninetta Runnals, Florence Dunn, Adelle Gilpatrick and Ervena Smith, aided by a host of others, won the day. The work for which Louise Coburn so valiantly and so frustratingly labored was finally accomplished. Even the most recalcitrant of the men came to recognize not only the justice, but also the value of the women's claims. Colby not only had loyal, generous, devoted women graduates; it also needed them. At last the Alumni Association welcomed them, not as rivals and competitors, but as partners in the common enterprise for a greater Colby.
Chapter XLIX

Adult Education

Colby College has never operated a general summer school, although several attempts have been made to start one. During World War II, when accelerated programs were common in most of the colleges, a full summer term was operated for undergraduates. Every summer since 1948 has seen a session of the Summer School of Languages, attended largely by undergraduates. With those exceptions the summer program on Mayflower Hill has been devoted chiefly to adult education.

Colby became interested in extending its services beyond the undergraduate body as early as 1892. In that year President Whitman, assisted by W. S. Bayley and Shailer Mathews, devised a plan of extension work throughout the State. During the winter of 1892-93, courses were given in Waterville, Portland, Bath, Rockland, and Bangor. At the end of that experiment, the report said:

An encouraging feature has been the interest shown, not merely in the lectures, but also in the collateral reading. Nevertheless, there exists considerable haziness in regard to what University Extension really is. As the name indicates, it is extension of college work to those who are not connected with colleges. The work consists of lectures, and for those who wish it, study.

At first the possibility of college credit for extension courses seems not to have arisen. Enrollment was invited of those "who desire merely entertainment of a literary sort or something more like college work." The announcement for 1892-93 listed nine offerings: Aryan and Semitic Languages, under Professor Julian Taylor; History of Italian Painting, with Professor Laban Warren; Astronomy, taught by the great physicist, William Rogers; Glaciers and their Deposits, with Professor William Bayley; Mineralogy, under the same man; History of the French Revolution, taught by Professor Shailer Mathews; Biblical Literature, with Professor George D. B. Pepper; Classical Periods of German Literature, with Professor Anton Marquardt; and the Art of Expression, taught by Instructor George Currie.

The plan called for not more than six lectures in any course. There was only a vague announcement of cost: "The cost is such that it is possible for a sponsoring organization to realize a profit from the sale of tickets. Young People's Societies, Christian Associations, and Women's Clubs are especially adapted to form a class." Clearly the original interest was to promote Colby Extension Courses in the same manner that lecture and lyceum series were sponsored in Maine cities at that time.
In 1894-95, not only was the plan continued, but it was also extended to a program of correspondence courses. The College announced: "Arrangements have been made with the Lewiston Journal, whereby there will appear in the Saturday edition of that paper, each week, lectures, reading lists, questions and answers on our extension courses. It is hoped that other papers may care to be furnished with similar material. There is no charge for correspondence classes."

By 1895-96 two new names had entered the program. The new President, Nathaniel Butler, offered a course in English and American Literature, and J. William Black taught two extension courses: American History, and Money and Banking.

During the decade of the 1890's, when Colby's first extension work was given, there was impressive demand for single lectures in the smaller as well as the larger communities of Maine. The extension announcement of 1896 presented an imposing list of such lectures. Dr. Pepper would speak on The Sermon on the Mount, or on The Beatitudes, or on The Personal Element in Teaching. Professor Warren had a lecture on Florence, illustrated by stereopticon views, or if an audience preferred, he would talk on Rome. Professor Rogers was glad to discuss The Old and the New Astronomy. Professor Bayley would give a choice of four topics: The Origin of Soils, The Iron Region of Lake Superior, The Superior North Shore and the Ougibwas, and What is Evolution? That last topic was a ticklish subject in a Baptist college in the 1890's and may have had something to do with President White's willingness to let the scholarly Bayley depart for other educational pastures. Professor Black would lecture on The Tidewater Region of Virginia, or on The Valley of the Shenandoah, or on Savage Customs and their Reminders.

The last extension course of that early period was given in 1897-98. In the following year, Dr. Black, director of the extension program, announced that only single lectures were available. One of those was The Bible as Literature, by Arthur J. Roberts. In the college catalogue for 1900 the term "university extension" does not appear. In its place appears "public lectures." By 1902 that heading also had disappeared.

Why did a project begun with such zeal and optimism last less than ten years? It is probable that a hard worked faculty found it increasingly difficult to journey to distant Maine towns, that gradually the "market" was absorbed, because the same persons did not care to attend year after year, and finally that the public lyceum and the ubiquitous Chautauqua were more enticingly meeting the same need. But all honor to those Colby pioneers! It was they who sowed the seeds that, half a century later, ripened into Colby's modern program of adult education.

Not until 1924 were extension courses revived. In the autumn of that year, under the leadership of Professor Carl Weber, an ambitious plan of evening courses was initiated. Each course met on twenty-five Monday evenings from October to May. Commenting on the program, the Waterville Sentinel said:

A very interesting experiment is to be tried by Colby College this year. Arrangements have been made whereby anyone who desires, regardless of age or previous education, may 'go to college'. Courses will be given by the regular professors on Monday evenings. Those seeking credit will be given examinations, but others need not take them, either for entrance or during the course. By this plan the facilities of the College are thrown open to the general public, and it is hoped the
privilege will be enjoyed by enough persons to make it successful and permanent.

The courses were indeed designed to meet the needs of different groups. Teachers could improve their professional standing and keep their certificates up to date. Courses in the business field appealed to clerical and industrial employees. Cultural subjects were directed toward the women's groups. Special attractions were offered to college graduates whose undergraduate work had left gaps they now longed to fill.

In its first year, the new program offered five courses: The Teaching of Biology, under Professor Webster Chester; The Teaching of English, under Professor Ernest Marriner; The World's Greatest Painters, under Professor Clarence White; The Economics of Business, with Professor Morrow; and Nineteenth Century Poetry, with Professor Weber. The schedule permitted a person to take two courses at a comprehensive fee of $25, or one course for $15.

In 1925, Colby's new and immediately popular professor of history joined the program, and for several years the largest enrollment in any course was enjoyed by Professor William J. Wilkinson. The courses for teachers were expanded by the coming to Colby of Professor Edward Colgan, who was eager to help teachers in service, as well as the prospective teachers in the undergraduate body.

Extension courses were soon offered beyond the bounds of the Waterville campus. In 1926, Professors Weber and Marriner traveled to Skowhegan for twenty-five Tuesday evenings. Each gave two courses to Skowhegan teachers and other interested citizens. It was a tough winter, presenting many hazards of snow, ice, mud and water, as the two professors drove in an open touring car over a road that had then not been paved. A feature of that Skowhegan winter was a lecture by President Roberts. Only with the help of a farmer's big work horses did Weber's car, with its presidential passenger, get through, and there was considerable relief when the President, late but safe, was delivered to the anxious Mrs. Roberts at the presidential home on College Avenue.

Enrollment dropped in 1927. For that reason, and because the College was upset by the death of President Roberts, it was decided to omit extension work until conditions should be more favorable. Those conditions appeared with the coming of President Johnson in 1929. Having participated in an elaborate extension program at Columbia, Johnson believed that such work was an important service to the community. In the autumn of 1930, with Marriner succeeding Weber as director, the Colby extension courses were resumed. The former schedule of twenty-five weeks was reduced to fifteen, and uniform credit of one semester hour was granted for the completion of each course. Weber, Marriner, Colgan and Wilkinson again offered courses, and two new names appeared. Professor Elmer Warren offered Educational Statistics, and Professor Galen Eustis gave a very popular course on Investment Procedures.

In 1931-32 the program was expanded to eight courses, and similar offerings were made the following year. Then a moratorium was again declared, but 1934-35 saw a richly revived program. President Johnson himself gave a course called The Public Schools and the New Social Order. Professor Libby gave a very popular course in Public Speaking. Marriner made weekly trips to Augusta, where he gave two courses to teachers in that city's public schools.

With the exception of 1937-38, there were annual offerings of Colby extension courses until they were interrupted by World War II. The coming of that war, in December, 1941, with its restrictions on automobile travel, the enlistment of
many faculty members in the armed forces, and the assignment of other members to teaching the uniformed men of the CTD, made extension work no longer feasible. In 1940-41, however, the Extension Department signed off with a group of distinguished courses. Professor Wilkinson and his associate, Mr. Prescott, jointly taught The United States and Contemporary World Problems. Professor Schoenberg, a brilliant mathematician and a refugee from Nazi Germany, taught Mathematics for the Million. Professor Warren offered Statistics for Classroom Teachers. Professor C. Lennart Carlson taught America Through Her Authors, and Professor Ernanno Comparetti gave Colby's first extension course in Appreciation of Music.

The first suggestion for a summer school of foreign languages came in the spring of 1946 when President Bixler received a letter from the President of Swarthmore College, suggesting that the two institutions combine in operating such a school on the Mayflower Hill campus. It was not until November, 1947, however, that a definite decision was made. The Colby Trustees then voted to authorize the establishment of a summer school of languages, under the joint auspices of Colby and Swarthmore. Professor John F. McCoy of Colby was appointed director, and Professor Phillips of Swarthmore associate director of the school, which opened in 1948.

From the beginning it was the intent to cooperate, not compete, with the long-established summer school of languages at Middlebury College. Hence the Colby-Swarthmore School set up no program of graduate study, did not attempt to enroll teachers, and made no liaison with foreign universities. It was distinctly an undergraduate school, except that it gave opportunity for the Ph.D. candidates in other fields to meet their foreign language requirements.

The school at once proved appealing to several groups of students. Some enrolled for occupational reasons, among the first being a man of middle age, reporter on a Boston newspaper, who wished to study Russian with a view to eventual journalistic assignment behind the Iron Curtain. Younger persons came to the school to complete undergraduate language requirements, or to accelerate their language studies in college. A few who needed to complete requirement for college entrance were admitted. At first high school students were frowned upon, but as the program developed, eleventh grade youngsters came in increasing numbers, to accelerate their language credits.

Four languages have been offered annually: French, German, Russian, and Spanish. Usually two courses have been given in each language, one at elementary, the other at advanced level. It has been an intensive program, because during the seven weeks of the school the student takes only one course. Every day he has a class meeting, a laboratory assignment and a conference with instructor. Much attention is given to the spoken language through recordings.

Before the school was in operation it was thought that the faculty would come from Colby and Swarthmore. From the beginning that proved to be not the case. Although in the early years, a majority were regular teachers at the sponsoring colleges, they were augmented by men and women from Smith, Mount Holyoke, Hood, Wellesley, Bucknell, Georgetown, Cornell, Iowa, Hunter, and Dickinson. Every year has seen at least one native person on the staff of each language. For instance, in 1952, Russian was taught by Daniel Zaret, a native of Russia, with a Ph.D. from the University of Moscow; a native German, Leonie Sachs, with a Ph.D. from the University of Berlin, taught that language. Liliane Fabre, from the University of Grenoble, taught French; and Manuel Guerra was instructor in Spanish.
In 1953 Swarthmore withdrew from the joint enterprise, and the school has since been conducted as the Colby College Summer School of Languages. All instructors live in the dormitories, conduct language tables, and are constantly available to encourage oral practice of the language. A metropolitan reporter who visited the campus was surprised to find students “playing tennis in Spanish.”

During the first five years, language school students came from 153 different colleges, from 36 states, and from four foreign countries. One student wrote: “Much of the fascination of the Colby College Summer School of Languages lies in the diversity of the people who are here. Students come from many different places, are of all ages, and seek different goals. The faculty, many of them brilliant lecturers and research scholars, are patient and sympathetic with young people. Many are foreign born, but all have rare skill to make the language come alive for those who speak it ever so haltingly.”

The modern program of adult education at Colby developed neither from the old extension courses nor from the summer school of languages. It was, rather, the inspiration of one man, Dr. Frederick T. Hill, 1910, prominent specialist in the diseases of ear, nose and throat, and a member of the Colby Trustees. Dr. Hill, long interested in the professional improvement of hospital service, arranged for an Institute in Hospital Administration to be held in the Women’s Union on the Mayflower Hill campus, from September 20 through 22 in 1945. The purpose was stated, “to serve the hospitals of Maine and other New England states with a program coordinated around the central idea of sound administrative practice in the human and public relations of the hospital administrator’s duties.”

The director of that first institute was Frank E. Wing of the New England Medical Center in Boston. Other instructors were Dr. Joseph Doane of the Jewish Hospital, Philadelphia; Abbie E. Dunks, assistant director of the New England Medical Center; Oliver Pratt, director of the Salem (Mass.) Hospital; and Raymond P. Sloan, editor of the Modern Hospital. In 1946 the course was directed jointly by Dr. Sloan and Miss Elizabeth Bixler of the Yale Graduate School of Nursing. Since 1947 Dr. Sloan has been the director, ably assisted by Miss Pearl Fisher, R. N., administrator of the Thayer Hospital in Waterville.

Even before the first hospital institute, a number of organizations had been granted facilities at Colby for the holding of summer conferences. In 1943, such conferences were held by the Maine Health Association, the Maine Conference of Social Welfare, the Maine Philosophical Institute, and the Maine Federation of Women’s Clubs. The Maine Hospital Association had also held meetings at the Hill before the plan for a formal institute was inaugurated.

In 1946 Dr. Hill expanded the institute program to three courses: hospital administrators, nursing education, and social welfare. He reported to the Trustees that there would soon be further extension into such fields as banking and taxation. In 1947 the Department of Health and Physical Education started its popular Coaching School, and the Hazen Foundation brought a hundred persons to the campus for a week's conference on student counseling. In subsequent years other organizations that held occasional sessions at Colby were the Country Day School Headmasters, the Maine Vocal Institute, Maine Life Underwriters Conference, Maine Savings Institutions, Maine Library Association, New England Accounting Conference, and United Nations Committee for Maine. Several summers saw the Great Books Leader Training Course, Workshop in Library Science, and a Tax Institute.
It was, however, the medical institutes, promoted by Dr. Hill, that became the permanent heart of Colby's summer program in adult education. A very important addition was the eleven-weeks program of the Lancaster Courses in Ophthalmology, which since 1954 has annually brought a hundred ophthalmologists from all over the world for intensive study at Colby. Dr. Hill's professional interest in problems of the deaf prompted him to start a course in Audiology for Industry, to which some of America's largest corporations sent representatives. A course for Medical Record Librarians became an annual fixture, as did the conference of Maine Public Health Nurses.

Medical courses, however, have not monopolized the program. Besides the coaching school, an annual feature has been Dirigo Girls State, bringing more than two hundred high school girls for a week's study of government. In 1956 began an annual Institute of Church Music, under the direction of Professor Everett Strong, a member of the Colby Department of Modern Languages and an accomplished organist. In 1958 was added the Summer Institute for Science under the auspices of the National Science Foundation.

The wide scope of the adult program in the summer months is shown by the listings for 1959, when more than 2000 persons spent from one to eleven weeks in study on Mayflower Hill. The courses and institutes totaled nineteen: Dirigo Girls State, Coaching School, Lancaster Courses in Ophthalmology, Library Science Workshop, Safety Courses, Summer School of Languages, Institute for Science, Maine Baptist Missionary Conference, Great Books Institute, Tax Institute, Tax Assessors, Tax Collectors, Institute on Occupational Hearing Loss, Maine Methodist Women, Josselyn Botanical Society of Maine, Church Music Institute, School for Young Executives conducted by Maine Savings Bank Association, Institute of Hospital Administrators, and Medical Record Librarians.

As early as 1946 Dr. Hill had advised that the summer program be placed under the direction of some member of the faculty or administration. When Professor Ralph Williams finally took on that responsibility, the program gained an enviable reputation for its efficiency of operation, and the College received enthusiastic commendation for hospitality. In 1954 the time had come for a full-time director of adult education, because already the offerings encompassed the entire year, not merely the summer months. William Macomber, a member of the Class of 1927 and the widely known principal of Cony High School at Augusta, became Colby's first full-time director of Adult Education and Extension.

Under Macomber's vigorous promotion, evening courses became a regularly established part of the program in 1954, and were soon thereafter fixed in two blocks, one in the fall semester, the other in the spring. Announcing the evening program for the spring semester of 1956, President Bixler said: "An institution of liberal arts, such as Colby, must not withdraw from the life around it, but must be concerned with what its neighbors find important. Our goal is not only to teach our own students imaginatively, but to encourage those in our neighborhood and wider constituency to see the creative possibilities in their work." Those 1956 courses included Great Collections at Colby, with Professor Weber; Personal Finance, with Professor Ralph Williams; Choral Workshop, under Professor Re; World's Great Religions, taught by President Bixler himself; and two courses conducted cooperatively by several faculty members: Public Affairs Forum, and Freedom and Authority. At other times the evening courses covered such subjects as Contemporary American Novel, Arts in the Twentieth Century, From Toddler to Teenage, Appreciation of Music, Life and Teachings of Jesus, Great Artists, Mass Media in Modern Society, The Beginnings of the Church, Statistical

In 1956 Colby entered the field of educational television, and has since offered regular adult instruction over the services of Mount Washington TV and the station at Presque Isle, thus covering all of northern New England. The first course was "Faiths of Other Lands," given each Sunday afternoon in a half hour showing by President Bixler. The College had already experimented with television by cooperating in a course, "Introduction to the Atom," conducted over the Mount Washington Station by Professor Jonas Karas of the University of New Hampshire. In subsequent years the television screen showed Professor Julius Brown in Astronomy, Professor James Carpenter in Art, Professor Richard Newhall in The Middle East, Dean Robert Strider in American Literature, and Professor Albert Mavrinac in Constitutionalism and Totalitarianism. In 1960 Colby entered into cooperation with Bates and Bowdoin in founding Station WCBB, an exclusively educational channel covering southern and eastern Maine.

As early as 1949 Colby began an important association with business and industry when it presented the first Business Management Institute, sponsored jointly by the Colby Department of Business Administration and the Associated Industries of Maine. For several years the chairman was Ellerton Jette of the C. F. Hathaway Company, a prominent member of the Colby Trustees. In 1952 the name was changed to the Institute of Maine Industry, and since that year it has annually been held at the time of the spring recess. Energetic chairmen were Wallace Parsons, President of the Keyes Fibre Company, and John H. McGowan, President of the Wyandotte Worsted Company. Besides the Associated Industries, other sponsors have been the Maine Food Growers and Processors, Maine Members of the American Pulp and Paper Association, the Maine Merchants Association, the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, the Northern Textile Association, the New England Shoe and Leather Association, Maine Bankers Association, and Investment Bankers of America.

Among prominent speakers at sessions of the Institute have been Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce; Edward McCormick, President of the American Stock Exchange; Ira T. Ellis, Economist of E. I. duPont deNemours and Company. In 1959 attention was given to Maine's rapidly increasing industry of poultry processing, with Donald P. Corbett, Treasurer of the Fort Halifax Packing Company, presiding.

Also sponsored by the Associated Industries of Maine have been the courses on Industrial Safety Training, begun in 1957. Widely supported by other industrial organizations and by the departments of labor and industry of several New England states, these courses attracted large enrollment.

What the summer program alone had come to mean as early as 1956 is shown in Director Macomber's report for that year. Seventeen different groups had assembled on the campus for periods ranging from four days to eleven weeks. More than 2000 individuals had registered, of whom 1200 had stayed at least one night. Room service had made 10,000 beds and dining service had prepared 60,000 meals. As for extension courses, the fall program of seven courses had attracted 175 registrants, while the spring offering of ten courses enrolled 200.

"We have," said Macomber, "many courses geared to the needs of industry."
Another phase of adult education at Colby has been the impressive annual series of lectures and concerts, open to the public without charge. Most important are the Averill Lectures, sponsored by Dr. George G. Averill, and since his death by Mrs. Averill; the Gabrielson Lectures on Government, sponsored by Hon. Guy Gabrielson; and the Ingraham Lectures in Philosophy and Religion, sponsored by Robert Ingraham, 1951. In all of these programs the lecturer not only delivers a public address, but also attends classes and confers with small groups. Several concerts are given annually by the Colby Community Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Ermanno Comparetti, and by the choral groups under Professor Peter Re. Powder and Wig, the college dramatic society, directed by Professor Irving Suss, presents noteworthy productions.

President Bixler's vision of a Colby not cloistered in an ivory tower, but responsive to community needs, has been fully realized. Colby's Adult Education program of 1960 placed the College in the forefront of the modern educational movement that insists upon continuance of learning as long as one lives.
A. ORGANIZATIONS

LIKE most Americans, college students have been persistent joiners. When they found no organization to join, they created one. The Maine Literary and Theological Institution had barely opened its doors in 1818 when the students formed a religious society, and within a few years there were two rival literary groups. Earlier chapters of this history have given information about those first societies, about the subsequent fraternities and sororities, the athletic association and its council, and the inter-fraternity council. The present chapter makes no attempt to include every organization that has sprung up on the Colby campus, but merely to mention a few that have been typical of the vast number of groups that have appealed to the eager joiners.

Student government began in the administration of President Pepper in 1885, with the formation of the Conference Board, frequently referred to in previous chapters. By the time of the centennial in 1920 the two conference boards of men and women had become respectively the Men's Student Council and the Women's Student League. Because of the carefully regulated nature of women's life in the dormitories, the latter, from its inception, exercised increasing control over matters pertaining solely to the Women's Division; but, because the men's dormitories were free both from proctors and from rules in the 1920's, the activity of the men's Council consisted chiefly of petitioning the administration for holidays and extended vacations, changes in the attendance rules, and other privileges. Not until the College had moved to Mayflower Hill and World War II had brought the women into closer cooperation with the men in conducting all-student organizations did social coeducation become a fact at Colby; and one of its consequences was the organization of Student Government, a council composed of both men and women. That council did not displace the Women's Student League nor the Interfraternity Council, but it did become the recognized general body for the management of all-college matters.

The movement for honorary societies began with the coming of Phi Beta Kappa in 1895. Not only is it the oldest of American fraternities, for when it was founded at William and Mary in 1776 it was a secret society, but it was also the first of a flood of so-called honor societies to invade the Colby campus nearly 120 years later. Outliving many of its successors, it remained at Colby, as at other American colleges, the highest academic honor that can come to any senior. A number of colleges elect top scholars to the society in the middle of junior year, completing the delegation by a subsequent election in senior year, but the Colby
chapter of Phi Beta Kappa has annually selected the entire delegation after the middle of senior year.

In 1898 came a different kind of "honorary" society, a kind for which the only honor was selection on the basis of popularity. The first such group was called the Epicureans, "a society for senior men, limited in membership and organized for purely social purposes." In the same year the women started a senior society called Kappa Alpha. In 1900 the sophomore girls formed Chi Gamma Theta, and in 1903 Upsilon Beta was organized for sophomore men. In 1910 came a men's junior society, the Druids. All of the men's societies were placed on a fraternity basis, the membership being composed of one man, or at the most two, from each fraternity. By 1925 the Epicureans and Upsilon Beta were called "feed" societies. Only the Druids avowed other than a social purpose, offering a scholarship cup to the fraternity with highest academic average. The need for service organizations, perhaps prompted by the coming of Rotary and Kiwanis on the American scene, gave rise to a sophomore group, the Mystics, charged with the entertainment of visiting athletic teams.

The period immediately following the First World War saw an influx of semi-academic organizations, often connected with some instructional department. In 1918 Professor Libby had introduced a chapter of the national forensic society, Pi Kappa Delta. Professor Colgan had organized, in 1924, a chapter of the national education society for men, Kappa Phi Kappa, and the following year saw the formation of Delta Sigma Chi, a similar society for women. Professor Morrow secured for Colby a charter from the national social science society, Pi Gamma Mu in 1926. Sigma Pi Sigma honored outstanding students in physics, as did Chi Epsilon those in chemistry. Under various names, from time to time clubs were formed for enthusiasts in the various ancient and modern languages.

The 1940's saw the formation of two student societies that deserve the epithet "honorary." First came Cap and Gown, a group of carefully selected senior women, chosen on the basis of their contribution to the welfare of the College and especially of its women students. It was soon followed by a similar organization of senior men, called Blue Key. During the years following World War II both societies rendered conspicuous service.

Music and drama have long had their campus devotees. Glee Club, concert choir, chapel choir, orchestra and band have all been represented by formal organizations, and for many years Powder and Wig has enrolled enthusiastic followers of the stage.

A mere listing of other societies, at various intervals during the half-century from 1910 to 1960 reveals the tendency of such groups to come and go, as needs change and student opinion fluctuates. The list shows, however, that additions more than offset subtractions. In 1910 there were the Mandolin Club, the Debating Society, the Dexter Club, and the Women's Glee Club. By 1925 there were the Press Club, the Camera Club, the Sons of Colby, and the Student Fellowship. Before 1940 two important organizations, the Outing Club and the International Relations Club, had come on the scene, and along with them were the Contemporary Literature Club and the undergraduate division of Library Associates.

The 1959 edition of the Colby Gray Book listed, among the student organizations, Student Council and Student League, with their respective judiciary committees; the Inter-fraternity Council and the Women's Athletic Association; seven religious groups; eight honorary societies; ten fraternities and four sororities;
five publications; Outing Club, and Hangout; four foreign language clubs; five miscellaneous organizations. Between 1820 and 1960 the students at Colby had become rather thoroughly organized.

B. Publications

The earliest periodical publication at Colby was the annual catalogue, later presented as an annual issue of the *Colby College Bulletin*, which at times included, besides the catalogue, issues of the reports of President, Treasurer, and Librarian, as well as issues of the “Freshman Catalogue,” a sort of promotion pamphlet directed at prospective students. Since frequent mention of the catalogue, first published in 1824, has been made in preceding pages, no extended comment is needed here. President Roberts once called the catalogue of any American college “its leading work of fiction,” yet a perusal of those annual issues at Colby over a period of 135 years gives a factual picture of the growth in enrollment, the increase in faculty, the changing fees, and the development of curriculum. As President Roberts implied, it is difficult to ascertain from any college catalogue what student life at the institution is really like. Nevertheless, over a long period of time, the catalogue does reflect the essence of the institution, and becomes a valuable source of historical data. What the catalogue fails to do is to breathe life into the cold form. That vitality is fortunately provided by other sources.

Every college, as it grows older, becomes increasingly aware of the importance of its alumni. Some wag of a college president once said that he envied the warden of a prison, because to that institution the alumni seldom returned to tell the head how to run the place. Troublesome as alumni could sometimes be, every college learned that they were, on balance, assets rather than liabilities; but no college could mobilize those assets unless it knew who and where they were. Hence the *General Catalogue*—a complete directory of all former students—became common.

At first Colby paid attention only to deceased graduates, publishing an annual necrology at Commencement. In 1880 Colby’s energetic librarian and alumni necrologist, Edward W. Hall, persuaded his classmate, Col. Richard C. Shannon, to finance a *Colby General Catalogue* if Hall would assemble the data and edit it. Hall’s work appeared as the first edition of the *Colby General Catalogue* in 1882. It presented information in four categories: men graduates, women graduates, men non-graduates, and women non-graduates. Under each category names appeared in alphabetical order by classes, and deceased as well as living members were included. The volume also listed all officers and faculty members who had served during those sixty-four years. Five years later, in 1887, Hall brought out a second edition, and just a year before he died in 1909 he edited the third.

When plans were made for the centennial in 1920, it was decided to issue a fourth edition of the *General Catalogue*. The task was committed to Charles P. Chipman, who had succeeded Hall both as librarian and as necrologist. He made that edition the most complete and most accurate of all issues of the publication. Many alumni regret that Colby has had no subsequent edition of that valuable work. This historian can testify that the *Colby General Catalogue* of 1920 has been a constant source of reference, and that lack of any subsequent edition has entailed many hours of otherwise unnecessary labor in checking names, places and dates. The occasional directories of living alumni, valuable as they are, can never replace a comprehensive general catalogue.
Oracle

The oldest student publication at Colby College is the Oracle, the yearbook of the senior class, which first appeared as a modest four-page sheet in 1867, and by 1870 had expanded to thirty-two pages. Except for three short articles, the first issue was entirely a directory, listing the members of DKE and Zeta Psi, of the Baseball Club, and of the periodicals taken by the Athenaeum. Space was also given to the musical societies, the Boardman Missionary Society, the Literary Fraternity, and the Erosophian Adelphi. Prize awards for 1866-67 were announced, and the directory ended with a list of Trustees and faculty. The latter was a short list, for in 1867 the entire teaching staff consisted of only six persons: President Champlin, Professors Smith, Hamlin, Lyford, Foster, and Hall. Chairman of the Board of Trustees was Governor Abner Coburn. President of the Erosophian Adelphi was a young senior named Julian Taylor, who was about to begin an unprecedented career of 63 uninterrupted years as a Colby teacher.

When Mary Low, the first woman graduate, received her diploma in 1875, the Oracle, still in paper covers, boasted 72 pages. The "officers of government and instruction" now included eleven persons, and directly beneath the name of Edward W. Hall, Librarian, appeared "Sam Osborne, Janitor." In light of Colby's later adoption of the white mule as mascot, it is interesting to note that on the faculty page in the 1875 Oracle appeared a picture of a female donkey and her foal.

The Oracle first appeared in hard covers in 1878. By 1900 illustrations were common, and after 1910 individual photographs of seniors were annually included. During all the years before World War I, literary features were common. In 1913, for instance, there were twenty articles and stories, as well as sixteen poems. After 1920 it became the usual custom to dedicate each issue to some member of the faculty.

As the art of photography improved, the Oracle gradually changed into a yearbook of illustrations. Greatly reduced were the class histories and the review of the year, while literary features were entirely eliminated. A glance at the 1958 Oracle reveals many changes since 1875. The frontispiece shows the faculty marching to convocation up the walk of Lorimer Chapel. There are individual photographs of college officers and department heads, and group pictures of the instructional departments. Individual pictures of the seniors are accompanied by factual thumbnail sketches, with none of the humorous appellations that characterized earlier issues. Among all the illustrations, an old timer would find familiar only the posed groups of fraternities. Most of the others, including the athletic teams, are informal shots. Among the most striking pictures is one of the AFROTC, on parade through Waterville's main streets. A picture of the Women's Judiciary Board, sitting around a table loaded with ash trays, would shock the old timer. The editor of the 1958 Oracle explained the new policy: "With this edition we have attempted to emphasize pictures and to minimize copy to a brief yet complete review of the year."

Echo

What is now Colby's weekly newspaper began as a monthly in 1877. It had been preceded by sporadic news publications, usually issued by one or another of the fraternities. In fact, in the first issue of the new publication, called
the *Echo*, appeared an agreement between the recently formed Colby Publishing Society and the DKE Fraternity, pooling publication finances in the new society.

The *Echo* first came from the press in March, 1877, under the editorship of Joseph Files. At first it was a literary as well as news sheet, and some of its essays and stories were of high quality, written by persons who later achieved fame in the literary world. In 1886 it was changed to a semi-monthly, and in 1898 became the weekly newspaper that it has since remained. From 1898 to 1908 it took newspaper size and form in four pages; from 1908 to 1921 it reverted to magazine size, and since 1921 has again had newspaper size, with usually six or eight pages.

Someone was always finding fault with the way *Echo* editors were chosen. At times it was observed that the editorship seemed to be inherited within a fraternity; at other times a man would jump into the position without previous experience on the paper. The trouble was that too often there was no genuine competition for the lower echelon posts and therefore no regular rising through the ranks. Almost every decade the reformers would demand a new *Echo* constitution, and for a time thereafter competition would thrive, only to slump again after a few years. The Colby *Echo* has been kept going, not by sporadic reforms, but by the fact that, in good times and bad, there have always been a few devoted students willing to sacrifice time and sometimes even marks to "get out the paper."

Typical of troughs in the sine curve of *Echo* history is the record of what happened in 1925. Since 1920, each editor had been given credit for an advanced course in English composition. At a 1925 faculty meeting, one professor objected that recent elections to the *Echo* board had been neither supervised nor approved by the faculty, as required by the *Echo* constitution. Another professor contested the new editor's claim to a year's credit in English. At the next faculty meeting an investigating committee reported that they found the new editor "completely incompetent and ignorant of the most elementary essentials for conduct of such a publication." The committee recommended supervision of the editorship by the Department of Journalism, and of the business staff by the Department of Business Administration. Just before Christmas, the criticized editor resigned, but petitioned to the faculty for one semester's credit in English. The faculty voted: "Since he did not carry the work through even one semester, and since there is no provision for giving credit for less than a full year of editorship, the petition is not granted."

By 1928 the faculty had had their fill of academic credit for *Echo* work. They then voted: "The rule granting six hours of credit in English to the Editor-in-Chief of the *Echo* is hereby rescinded."

There has been only one instance of father and son both serving as editors of the *Echo*. That distinction was held by George Otis Smith, 1893, and Joseph Coburn Smith, 1924. Brothers have also held the office: Wilford G. Chapman, Jr., 1912, and Alfred K. Chapman, 1925. Among editors who later became Trustees of the College, besides the two Smiths, were Beecher Putnam, 1889; Angier Goodwin, 1902; and Raymond Spinney, 1921. Later to serve on the Colby faculty were editors Hugh Hatch, 1890; Frank Dean, 1909; Clyde Russell, 1922, and Alfred Chapman. Only one editor rose to the Colby presidency: Franklin Johnson, 1891.

Financing student publications has always presented a problem. It is no fun for an editorial board to face a debt left by their predecessors. For many years both *Oracle* and *Echo* struggled along on voluntary subscriptions and local ad-
vertisements. Even a modest degree of faculty supervision did not solve the problem. Finally the student body voted to make subscription to both Oracle and Echo compulsory upon all students, collection to be made by the College on the individual term bills. That policy gave the publication assured income and made possible accurate budgeting. It was, however, a change in national advertising that made it possible for the Echo to meet rising costs of publication. For many years advertising had been restricted to those reluctant dragons, the local merchants. Suddenly there burst into college journalism the lavish advertising of the cigarette companies. Vying with each other, those manufacturers spread full-page ads in the college newspapers. It became possible for the Echo to put out editions of six and eight pages because the big tobacco companies wanted to be sure no student forgot their brands.

Frequent quotations from the Echo, interspersed through the pages of this history, show that the paper gave voice to student opinion, defended the college stoutly against outside criticism, and crusaded for many a campus reform. It has seldom hesitated to criticize the college administration. Sometimes a bold editor deliberately attacked prevailing student opinion. Such an editor was Franklin Johnson, who in 1890 aroused a lethargic student body to a needed reform of the athletic association. Again, in 1912, Wilford Chapman, Jr., at considerable personal risk, attacked successfully, the powerful, but pernicious society of Theta Nu Epsilon.

It was inevitable that an article in the Echo should occasionally excite faculty wrath, but the Echo is indeed one of a very few college newspapers that has never been suspended or suppressed. Colby College is proud of its reputation as the institution that produced Elijah Parish Lovejoy, who died for freedom of the press. Colby officials have never tried to control or censor the college newspaper, but have only asked its editors to be responsible for the accuracy of their statements.

Colbiana

In 1912 the women students decided that, in light of the slight representation accorded them by the Echo, they must have a publication of their own. The Colbiana, first appearing in December, 1912, stated as its purpose "to develop among the girls greater Colby pride and loyalty, and to give the people outside the College a complete representation of the activities of the Women's Division." In the first issue appeared articles on Bloody Monday Night, Freshman Reception, Burning of Freshman Bows and Bibs, the YWCA, Women's Athletics, and "General News." From the beginning Colbiana contained a careful selection of literary items. In that 1912 issue Alice Beckett had an article on Grand Manan and a poem; Emily Hanson had a short story worthy of national publication; and Abbie Sanderson contributed a delightful soliloquy called "Day Dreams."

At first Colbiana was published four times a year, but was later reduced to three issues. Its last appearance was in April, 1932. The editorial board explained: "We, having lost our editor-in-chief, are floundering a bit as we send this issue to the press. We ask you to bear with us for the amateurish quality of this issue and the scantiness of some of the material."

During its twenty years of existence Colbiana served well the cause of Colby girls. It gave the alumnae direct information about the Women's Division, and it proved that the women could produce something more than a news sheet or a
yearbook. But by 1932 it had had its day. Women were becoming increasingly recognized by the older publications, long dominated by men. When, in the midst of World War II, both *Oracle* and *Echo* had their first women editors, there was no longer a need for *Colbiana*.

**White Mule**

At one time or another the students at most colleges have attempted a humorous magazine after the style of *Puck*, *Judge*, and the old *Life*. Among the most famous have been the Harvard *Lampoon*, the Columbia *Jester*, the Cornell *Widow*, and the Dartmouth *Jack-o-Lantern*. Colby's contribution to this not always laudable venture was the *White Mule*. It was the brain-child of Ralph McLeary 1924, John Nelson 1926, and Ted Hodgkins 1925. The first issue in November, 1923, announced: "The *White Mule* is intended to fill a place long vacant at Colby. Every wide-awake college should have a comic paper, devoted to the banishment of care in college life. Every student is asked to contribute jokes, stories, and verse. The *White Mule* welcomes all contributions to his crib."

The new publication had a hard time. Not recognized for inclusion under the Student Activities Fee, it could not be sure of adequate circulation. While like the *Echo* it could depend upon a few lucrative cigarette ads, its local advertising was meager. Commendably it never accepted liquor advertisements. Like most such periodicals, it was given to risqué and questionable jokes. It is difficult for the most scrupulous editor to draw the line between what is funny and what is in poor taste. More than once the sophisticated *Life* of Edward Martin's day offended even those readers who were inclined to liberal views in such matters. It was inevitable that the *White Mule* should increasingly give offense. If it had enjoyed adequate financial support, if its editors had been able to fulfill their obligation to advertisers and publish a stated number of annual issues, the general quality of content might have overcome criticism of individual items. But even its most ardent supporters became tired of waiting months for an issue, only to have it appear in flimsy format with stale content. Suspended during the war, the *White Mule* attempted a revival in 1946, but it was too late. It finally gave up the ghost in 1947.

**Handbooks**

Most publishing enterprises among Colby students have been strictly segregated. *Echo* and *Oracle* both started as publications solely of the men. Not so the first student handbook. Called the *Colby Handbook*, it was put out jointly by the YMCA and the YWCA in 1891. That first issue was a tiny volume of pocket size, containing only 26 pages, eight of which were filled with ads solicited from local merchants. The book was intended not so much to give information about college life as to promote the two Christian associations. More than half the book was devoted to the Y’s. There were directories of the local churches and pastors' residences, with conspicuous omission of the Roman Catholics. A single page was given up to a listing of student organizations, only five in number: Reading Room Association, *Echo*, *Oracle*, Baseball Association, and Athletic Association (track and field). Concerning expenses the handbook said: "Total expenses, including tuition, room rent, board, and incidentals, will range from $275 to $325 a year, according to the generosity of the student."

By 1900 the *Handbook* had been expanded to include the college calendar, four pages on athletics, the art collections, and attention to music, drama, and
debating. A feature was “Date of Erection of Buildings.” An important innovation was “Information for New Students,” including such items as, “At chapel the freshmen occupy the row of seats farthest from the door.”

In 1902 the Handbook appeared in a limp leather cover and remained with that binding until its abandonment in 1932. By 1912 it reflected an expanding College under President Roberts, recognizing the honor societies, giving schedules and records, listing class officers, colors, and yells; and doubling the number of advertisers. By 1926 the use of smaller type enabled the Handbook to include much added information. “Points to Freshmen” now covered six pages, grouped under such headings as “Before You Come,” “When You Arrive,” and “Getting Settled.” The faculty directory gave each teacher’s department, title, residence, and telephone number. There was detailed information about eleven “honorary societies.”

The regulations as well as the mores of the Women’s Division were so different from those of the men that during the 1920’s the girls saw the need of a handbook of their own. In 1917 they had formed the Student League of the Women’s Division, and it was that organization that produced the Women’s Handbook. It acquainted new girls with the regulations governing women in the dormitories, the operation of the Panhellenic Council, and information about many aspects of college life. In 1935 the book surprisingly included the entire membership list of each Colby fraternity, probably because the girls considered it important information.

In 1932 the college administration decided to resume publication of the administrative rules, a practice that had continued throughout the nineteenth century but had been abandoned soon after the student handbooks began to include some of the regulations. The new official publication, the Colby Gray Book, was issued annually after 1932. It contained detailed information about registration, election of courses, attendance, examinations, marks, academic standing, eligibility, finances, residence rules, health service, and social functions.

Originally the Gray Book listed and described 32 student organizations. By 1959 the number had grown to 52. As time passed, the Gray Book included such additional matters as war credits, veterans’ affairs, employment and placement, traffic regulations, special events, and a directory of office and residence telephone numbers.

**Literary and Scholarly Magazines**

Colby students have made repeated attempts to publish a strictly literary magazine, often with the active support of the Department of English. Invariably those publications have been short-lived for lack of general support. In the 1950’s a group of talented students succeeded in issuing for several years a magazine called Drokur. Its contents were of high literary quality, though inclined to be excessively sophisticated. Student gossip had it that a test of superior intelligence was the ability to understand a story or a poem in Drokur. When the magazine was gasping for breath in 1958, an earnest group attempted to revive it under the name Ikon.

Faculty interest in production of a scholarly journal, to contain contributions from both faculty and students, has likewise lagged. President Bixler, aided by a handful of faculty members, launched a publication called the Colby Scholar. In addition to the usual features of such a journal, the Scholar had the added merit of seeking articles that could be used in the classroom to supplement textbook
and customary readings. For two years the magazine appeared regularly, then lapsed into only occasional appearance. The faculty as a whole failed to respond to the editorial board's appeal for articles, the promoters themselves became discouraged, and the Colby Scholar was no more.

Despite other failures, one scholarly publication at Colby has been successful, has enjoyed continuing publication, and has won national acclaim. That is the Colby Library Quarterly, described fully in our chapter on the Library. The Library Quarterly was in fact preceded by the Colby Mercury, published by the Department of English under the editorship of Professor Carl J. Weber. The Mercury was indeed the true forerunner of the Library Quarterly because its last issue in July, 1942, was immediately succeeded by the first issue of the Quarterly under the same editor.

Originally intended, as the editor stated, "to appear from time to time in the interests of students enrolled in English courses," the Mercury gradually featured bibliographic items, usually under the heading "Recent Accessions to the Colby Library." By 1940, Professor Weber's patient collecting of rare books and manuscripts by and about Thomas Hardy, Edwin Arlington Robinson, and other writers was given recognition in the Mercury. One issue, for instance, announced that on November 28, the exact anniversary of Mrs. Hardy's birth, the Colby Library would place on exhibition twenty-four rare and important Hardy items. The issue of January, 1941, featured Colby's collection of Wordsworth; that of May, 1942, concluded a series on "Rebekah Owen's Hardy Collection"; and the final issue of July, 1942, was devoted largely to Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Had the Colby Mercury continued to be a repository of student themes, as it began, it might have gone the forgotten way of other literary journals. The fortunate circumstance that its editor became a noted bibliographer and Colby's official Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts gave the Mercury and its successor, the Library Quarterly, a distinctive quality. In creating that kind of literary mousetrap, Carl Weber assured a beaten path to the door of the Edwin Arlington Robinson Treasure Room.

The Colby Alumnus

In the chapter on the alumni brief mention has been made of the Alumnus, and other chapters have included so many quotations from that magazine that the reader is well aware of its importance as a source of information about the College. The time has now come to recount the history of that publication.

Like Edward W. Hall, his successor Charles Chipman became deeply interested in Colby lore and in every effort to bind the alumni closer to the College. Conceiving the idea of an alumni journal, Chipman launched in November, 1911, a modest publication called the Colby Alumnus. Associated in the editorship with Chipman was a man who would make that magazine enduring and memorable—Professor Herbert C. Libby. An advisory board included President Roberts, Professors Taylor and Hedman. The purpose of the magazine was avowed in an editorial.

The Colby Alumnus is published for the express purpose of bringing the great body of Colby alumni into closer and more sympathetic touch with the College. No publication with this aim has ever been undertaken by Colby men, with the result that many graduates are today uninformed about their College. For accomplishment of its high pur-
pose, it is imperative that Colby should bind its graduate body by the strongest bonds. That, in largest scope, is the work of this magazine.

The first issue set high standards. It began with an article about Chief Justice William Penn Whitehouse, 1863; presented a discussion of "Recent Growth at Colby"; and gave capsule accounts of pertinent events. Space was given to thumbnail sketches of seven new faculty members, there was a description of the new dormitory for men, and the welkin rang with three challenging editorials. The issue closed with what became a permanent feature—notes about individual alumni, arranged by classes and contributed by class correspondents.

Nothing more clearly reveals the attitude toward Colby women half a century ago than do those early issues of the *Alumnus*. The girls were simply ignored. A reader not acquainted with Colby would never suspect that women were enrolled. The *Alumnus* was intended for *alumni*; let the *alumnae* shift for themselves. It was that attitude which prompted the publication of *Colbiana*; and it was the later, long overdue recognition of the women by *Echo, Oracle* and *Alumnus* that made *Colbiana* unnecessary.

In its second issue (January, 1912) the *Alumnus* began publication of historical articles which have made it for nearly half a century an invaluable repository of Colby lore. Professor Chipman, long interested in obscure details about the origin of the College, published in successive issues his highly important monograph, *The Formative Period in Colby's History*.

When Chipman left the College temporarily, for service connected with World War I, he turned the magazine over to his associate, Professor Libby, who in 1917 began a brilliant editorship that continued until 1934. With its issue of October, 1917, the *Alumnus* assumed a "new look." Its editorials—a whole battery of them—now came first, and those editorials did not dodge controversial subjects. Not everyone agreed with them, but everyone read them, and every reader came away with the feeling that no problem worth solving is forbidden debate, and that Colby still believed in democratic decisions.

At once the new editor opened the pages to every obtainable item about Colby men in the war. Probably no other college journal in the country contained such a complete account of the effects of World War I on a college and the participation of its students, faculty, and alumni in the conflict.

Just as the editor himself "pulled no punches," so did he welcome many contributions from alumni. An annual feature that many of the editor's colleagues awaited with "fear and trembling" was Eighty-Odd's review of commencement. But it was not alone the open discussion of controversial topics that made the *Alumnus* under Libby a distinguished publication. Even more significant were the completeness and the accuracy of the many informative articles.

When the editorship came to the Director of Public Relations, Joseph Coburn Smith, it found a writer of great clarity and power, and a genius at ferreting out articles of amazing interest. Also an expert photographer, Joe made the *Alumnus* famous for unusual illustrations. Under subsequent editorship of the new Director of Public Relations, Richard Dyer, the *Alumnus* has several times been awarded national distinction. Still receptive to alumni opinion, it has become more than the voice of the graduates. To all who read it—and their number is legion—it is now the voice of the College, of the whole "Colby family."
CHAPTER LI

Religion At Colby

How did a church-founded college suddenly become divorced from its denominational connections? The answer is that divorce is the wrong word and there has been nothing sudden about it. By the American Baptist Convention, Colby is still listed as a Baptist-related college, although the once closely-tied apron strings began to loosen a long time ago.

Part of the change was inherent in Baptist policy regarding the denomination's schools and colleges. Like the Congregationalists and other sects that stood for the autonomy of the local congregation, the Baptists never sought to dominate their schools. Each school had its independent board of trustees, to whom the charter was issued, and seldom did such a charter call for representation from a Baptist association, and among Baptists the association was the natural body for broad action, although no association exercised any control over a particular church.

The early chapters of this history have made it clear that, while the predominant purpose of the founders of Colby College was to provide an educated Baptist ministry, other persons than Baptists were enrolled in the theological as well as the literary courses from the opening of the institution. Colby men and women have always been proud that the college charter set no sectarian barriers to admission or instruction.

Another factor played an important part in the denomination's hold on Baptist schools. Throughout the first hundred years of Colby history, many Maine Baptists were lukewarm toward the College at Waterville. As was true of every other Baptist college, it could not depend upon unified support from the denomination. At first many Baptists were opposed to an educated clergy; it made the ministers worldly. Look at what had happened to the ministers from Harvard! Worse still, look at what had happened to Harvard, controlled not by the righteous orthodox of colonial Boston, but by the pagan Unitarians.

As time went on the Calvinist wing of the Baptist denomination regarded the colleges as more and more suspect. They were not teaching the ancient division of the saved and the damned; they were employing teachers not of evangelical faith; they did not preach Baptist doctrine from the chapel pulpit; they allowed students to indulge in sports and games.

So we find that, long before the days when anxious Baptists were asking whether the proposed new president, Arthur Roberts, would stand firmly against card-playing and dancing, Colby presidents were complaining bitterly about lack of denominational support for the struggling institution. At the time of the fiftieth anniversary in 1870, President Champlin stated that abandonment of the
theological school had been a mistake, because by that action many of the Baptist constituency were alienated. Even kindly President Pepper found it difficult to stir enthusiasm for the College at church gatherings; President Small found the Maine Baptists, especially in the rural areas, cold toward the College; and devout President White was disheartened because so many Maine Baptist families were not sending their sons to Colby. In 1892 Leslie Cornish received a letter from his fellow trustee, Josiah Drummond, in Portland: “In the Free Street Church there is an awful storm. Judge Bonney and Dr. Burrage are trying to quell the bitter attacks on the College. The bears were turned loose on Mrs. W—, who was ready to make us a substantial gift. Today Judge Bonney has put her in a more hopeful attitude, but it may not last. The enemies of the College are powerful in that church.”

In 1917, Dr. Padelford reminded Baptists all over the country that they were sadly neglecting the schools and colleges which their forefathers had sacrificially founded. He reported that the great universities enrolled very few Baptists, in comparison to large numbers of other denominations. In the same year, Dr. E. C. Whittemore stated that Maine Baptists were providing far less than half the student body in any of their Maine institutions. “Even young men who have heard the call to the ministry,” he said, “are not matriculating in our colleges.” Again in 1919 Dr. Whittemore requested Baptist ministers throughout Maine to send him a list of young people who, with encouragement, might attend a Baptist academy or college in the State. He sadly commented, “Only a few ministers saw fit to reply at all.” As the Baptist historian Walter Cook aptly expressed it, “With Baptist pastors and parents alike indifferent to their educational inheritance, it is little wonder that Maine schools are no longer theirs. Although these institutions are sometimes found listed in brochures on education as Baptist possessions, only the naive observer can find more than a tenuous, virtually invisible thread leading from them to our churches.”

The policy of loose denominational control combined with continued theological suspicion of its schools made it inevitable, as changes occurred in American education, that the stronger and more highly respected in academic circles a Baptist college became the farther it was removed from denominational ties. One by one they broke away—the University of Chicago, Colgate, and even the oldest of all, Brown. Today neither Colby nor Bates has official affiliation with the American Baptist Convention, and both colleges were long ago repudiated by the Maine Baptist Convention. Yet Colby still has a modest relationship with the Baptists. Neither the College nor the Convention has ever completely broken the tie. Colby did not participate in any way in the 1958-1960 National Baptist campaign to raise money for the church’s related educational institutions, and for more than a quarter of a century the College has made no appeal to the Maine Baptist churches for financial support. But, proud of its Baptist heritage and knowing well that such a religious foundation is priceless, the Colby Trustees have persistently refused to sever completely the Baptist relationship, although both the College and the American Baptist Convention recognize clearly that the latter exercises no control whatever over the College. In 1960 the Colby catalogue still published the description: “Independent college of liberal arts for men and women; nonsectarian, founded under Baptist auspices.”

Colby owes much to its Baptist relationship. A long line of Baptist teachers and administrators presented to generations of students strong religious principles, by no means narrowed to Baptist tenets. Colby was regarded as a Christian college, not because of what it taught, but because of what its students caught from
the significantly spiritual lives of men like Johnny Foster, Samuel K. Smith, and Charles Hamlin; and in a later, more sophisticated day from men like Charles Chipman, Clarence Johnson, and Herbert Newman.

Not so well-known is Colby's material debt to the Baptists. During its first forty years, apart from a few men like Timothy Boutelle and William King, almost every substantial contributor to college funds was a Baptist. After the formation of the Education Society of the Northern Baptist Convention, and especially after a Colby alumnus, Frank Padelford, became its executive secretary, the national body of northern Baptists contributed frequently, sometimes in very large amounts, to the college treasury. Nor were the Colby Trustees reluctant to ask the Convention for funds. When the great financial campaign called the New World Movement was launched by the Northern Baptists in 1920, the Colby Board asked for $900,000. Since the great campaign proved surprisingly successful, Colby received a substantial amount of money. Again, when the campaign for Mayflower Hill had only begun, Dr. Padelford announced in 1932 that, in the recent past and since the completion of payment of its New World Movement pledge, the Northern Baptist Convention had paid into the Colby treasury more than $148,000; that the current year was seeing a total payment of $15,000 toward the Alumnae Building; and that the Convention had just made a new pledge of $100,000 to the Development Fund. Nor did Baptist contributions cease when the College moved to Mayflower Hill. Baptist funds made possible the employment of a chaplain for Lorimer Chapel, and the money was paid although the chaplain chosen was not a Baptist.

One of the worst dilemmas ever confronted by a Baptist president of Colby faced President White in 1902. He wanted Colby to be considered a Baptist college, but he also wanted it to qualify for financial assistance from the General Education Board. His statement to the board was truthful, but at the time did not convince those hard-headed business men in New York. White could clearly show that no Baptist organization exercised any control over the College. He called attention to the charter of 1820, by which the Board of Trustees was prohibited from being denominational. He pointed out that the trustee chairman since 1890 had been a Unitarian, as was also the secretary of the Board; and that the Treasurer was an Episcopalian. "The College has received great help from the Baptists of Maine," he wrote, "but they do not select the Trustees nor assume to influence the Institution." But White could not deny, nor did he have any wish to deny, that Colby was considered a denominational, and not a truly independent college. White tried to persuade the General Education Board of the facts, but they were more interested in the name. Furthermore no one could get around the fact that the provisions of the Gardner Colby gift declared that a majority of the faculty should be Baptists. Yet the Colby family still held membership on the Board of Trustees that had long since abandoned any denominational test for faculty membership. So President White's attempt to show that at least this one Baptist college was not a Baptist college fell on deaf ears.

The assumption that non-Baptist predominance on the Colby faculty is of recent occurrence is far from the truth. To be sure, when Gardner Colby became a trustee in 1865, all five members of the faculty, including President Champlin, were Baptists. When Mr. Colby died in 1879, all seven teachers belonged to the Baptist church. Even as late as 1889, when Mr. Colby's son was serving on the Board in place of his father, ten of the twelve faculty members were Baptists. By 1896, at the death of the third representative of the Colby family on the Board, non-Baptists had increased to seven of a total of seventeen.
In 1906, when an ardent Baptist clergyman was head of the College, the eighteen faculty members included eight Baptists, four Congregationalists, three Methodists, one Presbyterian, one Lutheran, and one Unitarian.

In 1909, the year when this historian entered the College as a freshman, the faculty numbered twenty-two, with eight Congregationalists, seven Baptists, three Methodists, two Unitarians, one Lutheran, and one Disciple of Christ. By 1913, when this historian graduated, the Baptists had shrunk to six, while the Congregationalists had increased to eleven, and for the first time the faculty included a Roman Catholic. At the end of President Roberts' administration in 1927, Congregationalists still predominated, while the Roman Catholic had been joined by a Greek Orthodox and a Christian Scientist.

Anyone who supposes that Baptist influence suddenly ceased with the Colby administration that began instruction on Mayflower Hill is grossly misinformed. Not since the turn of the century had anyone paid the slightest attention to the supposedly sacred provision that a majority of the faculty should be Baptists, and during the first eighteen years of that century, as during the thirty-five years that preceded 1900, there sat on the Board of Trustees that elected faculty members a representative of the family that had originally made the provision.

It has already been intimated that Colby College has enjoyed more friendly relations with the national body now known as the American Baptist Convention than it has kept with the Baptists of Maine. The explanation is that the United Baptist Convention of Maine has long been more conservative than has the national convention. Theological fundamentalism exercised a strong hold on Maine Baptists; so strong, in fact, that a number of the Maine churches withdrew altogether from the American Baptist Convention, and within the United Baptist Convention of Maine the liberal wing of the denomination came to have little voice. Colby College was avowedly liberal. Among its numerous Baptist communicants on the faculty in 1923, when this historian became a member of the staff, not one could be designated a fundamentalist. One of those most loyal Baptists was an evolutionist; another supplied the Universalist pulpit; a third led the movement that admitted unimmersed persons into transfer membership in the Waterville Baptist Church. Long before the break finally came, Colby College was much too liberal to satisfy the predominant view of Baptists in Maine.

When formal separation came, it was the Maine Convention, not the College, that took action. On February 23, 1933, the Commission on Education of the United Baptist Convention of Maine cut the already tenuous apron strings. For some time complaints about "modernism" at Colby and Bates had been increasing. Both colleges were accused of teaching Bible courses based on the "higher criticism." In Baptist pulpits from Kittery to Caribou the modernism and secularism of the colleges were being denounced. One Baptist pastor in a rural community told a mother he would rather see her son dead than enrolled at either Colby or Bates. Baptist clergymen and leading laymen felt they were fully justified in voting "no confidence" in such hotbeds of liberalism. Ten years earlier, when two Colby faculty members, both Baptists, had been giving instruction in a local Institute of Religion, one Baptist pastor had refused to conduct a devotional service at that institute saying, "I'm not going down there and pray for those two infidels." Accepting the recommendation of its commission, the United Baptist Convention of Maine severed relations with both Colby and Bates. Since 1923, Colby in its home state has not been considered in any respect a Baptist college. Walter Cook summed it up thus: "In 1935 the Commission on Education was erased from the constitution of the United Baptist Convention of
Maine. The gravity of this act was reflected in many laments of people who remembered days when the colleges were in closest association with the Convention. But such happy affiliation belonged to an era long passed."²

Not the least of Colby's Baptist connections was its long association with the First Baptist Church of Waterville. In the home which President Chaplin had established in the Wood house, on the present site of the Elmwood Hotel, on August 27, 1818, the local church had been organized. The first President of the College became the first pastor of that church. For nearly a hundred years every important public function of the College, including the commencement exercises, was held in the Baptist meetinghouse erected in 1826. The first Colby graduation to be held elsewhere was transferred to the City Opera House in 1920, and then only because the Centennial drew a crowd that could not be accommodated at the church. As enrollment continued to increase during the 1920's, it became necessary to hold both the baccalaureate sermon and the graduation exercises at the Opera House, but other functions, especially public lectures, were usually held in the church until the opening of the Alumnae Building in 1929.

For 75 years every person who held a professorship on the Colby faculty was a member of Waterville's First Baptist Church. Most of them joined that church by letter from some other Baptist congregation, but a few had been born in Waterville and the church on Elm Street had always been their religious home. Not until 1894 was a non-Baptist named to a Colby professorship. After Chaplin's time two pastors of the church became Colby presidents: David N. Sheldon in 1843 and George D. B. Pepper in 1882. The famous author of "America," Samuel Francis Smith, was at the same time pastor of the church and Professor of Modern Languages at the College. Among the pastors who were influential Colby Trustees were Milton Wood, Henry S. Burrage, and Edwin C. Whittemore. It was a Colby student, George Dana Boardman, who became the first missionary of both the College and the Waterville Church. It was another student, Jonathan Forbush, who in 1834 had started the mission to the French Canadian immigrants that later became the Second Baptist Church of Waterville.

It is mistakenly assumed that, in its early years, the College graduated only men destined for Baptist pulpits. In the first fourteen classes, from 1822 to 1835, one hundred and thirteen men received diplomas, and it is true that the large number of forty-six entered the ministry, but that was less than half of the total number. Surprisingly, in those first fourteen classes, the ministers barely outnumbered the lawyers, for thirty-eight of those 113 men were admitted to the bar. Only seventeen adopted teaching as a career, but ten of those taught at college level, some of them at famous American universities. Nine became physicians. In fact, all except ten of the entire 113 men entered one or another of the learned professions. Of those ten, two were publishers, one a commission merchant, one a banker, one a career naval officer, two farmers, and two plantation owners in the deep South.

Benjamin F. Butler's class of 1838 was one of the largest Colby classes before the Civil War, graduating fifteen men and numbering twenty-four non-graduates. In that class the lawyers equalled the pastors, five each; three others were teachers, one became a publisher and the remaining man was a ship's purser.

During the first twenty years of Colby history not all of the graduates who chose the ministry as a profession were Baptists. Colby's most honored graduate, Elijah Parish Lovejoy, 1826, was a Presbyterian; two men entered Congregationalist pulpits, and two became Episcopal rectors.
sary, in 1845, Waterville College had proved that, while close to its Baptist inheritance, it was by no means a training ground solely for Baptist ministers.

One of Colby's great classes was the Civil War class of 1862. It included the illustrious librarian, Edward W. Hall; the generous benefactor, Colonel Richard C. Shannon; the renowned missionary to Burma, Alonzo Bunker; Ozias Whitman of the U. S. Weather Bureau; and Zemno Smith, editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. That is surely variety as well as distinction for one Colby class a century ago. In fact, among the 26 men in that class only six became ministers, and two of them were not Baptists.

Although clergymen did not predominate among even the early graduates, the College has had reason to be proud of her many distinguished sons who chose to enter the ministry. Nor did their numbers cease with the early years. Almost every class from 1822 to 1960 has seen at least one man enter the most sacred of professions. They have included such prominent divines as Everett Carlton Herrick, 1898, President of the Andover-Newton Theological School; Frank W. Padelford, 1894, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention; Edwin C. Whittemore, 1879, Secretary of the Maine Baptist Convention and Colby's first historian; Woodman Bradbury, 1887, William Donovan, 1892, and John W. Brush, 1920, all professors at Andover-Newton; Isaac Higginbotham, 1911, Secretary of the Massachusetts Baptist Convention; and Shailer Mathews, 1884, Dean of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago.

It was in the field of missionary enterprise, however, that Colby made its most celebrated contribution to the Christian faith. George Dana Boardman, valedictorian of the first graduating class in 1822, was only the first of a long line of Colby missionaries. Interest in Baptist missions had been stirred during the early years of the century, and Adoniram Judson had gathered in Burma a staunch band of New England men and women. When one of them, James Colman, died of tropical fever in 1823, George Dana Boardman, then a tutor at Waterville College, said, "I will go in Colman's place." Ordained in his father's church at North Yarmouth, with President Chaplin preaching the sermon, Boardman married a Salem girl and departed for Burma. There for six years he worked among the Karens, a wild tribe in the Burmese hills. Afflicted with tuberculosis, he died in 1831, only thirty years old. His widow later became the second wife of Adoniram Judson.

In 1928 there was celebrated in Tavoy, Burma, the one hundredth anniversary of the baptism of the first Karen Christian convert by George Dana Boardman. In the hundred years Karen communicants had increased to more than seventy thousand. A monument of polished red granite was dedicated to Boardman's memory. On one side was the inscription, "Sacred to the memory of George Dana Boardman, American missionary to Burma, born February 8, 1801, died February 11, 1831. His epitaph is written in the adjoining forests." On the monument's opposite side is inscribed, "Ask in the Christian villages of yonder mountains who taught you to abandon the worship of demons? Who raised you from vice to morality? Who brought your Bibles, your Sabbaths, and your words of prayer? Let the reply be his eulogy."

Before Boardman had graduated from Waterville College he had led in the founding of a student missionary society. One of his fellow members was Calvin Holton, 1824, who became Colby's first missionary to Africa. Like Boardman, he succumbed early to the rigors of tropical climate, dying in Monrovia at the age of 29.
The Burmese mission attracted many Colby graduates. Classes represented extended from 1822 to 1926. Best known of those missionaries was John Cummings, 1884, who spent many years in Rangoon and was several times honored by the British government. Vernelle Dyer, 1915, and his wife, Odette Pollard Dyer, 1916, gave faithful and fruitful service in Burma, as did also Gordon and Helen Baldwin Gates, both of the Class of 1919. Teaching biology at the University of Rangoon, Gordon Gates became a world authority on earthworms. Altogether eighteen Colby men and women were missionaries to Burma.

The second largest group of Colby missionaries, numbering fifteen, went to China. There, in fact, went the larger number of Colby men and women who entered the mission field in this century. Ten of the fifteen who went to China graduated later than 1905, and eight of them in the six classes from 1913 to 1918. Only in China did two generations of the same Colby family serve in the missionary enterprise. John M. Foster, 1877, went to Swatow ten years after his graduation. His son, John H. Foster, 1913, with his wife, Helen Thomas Foster, 1914, took up work as a medical missionary at Nanking in 1919; and his brother, Frank C. Foster, 1916, went to Swatow immediately after his Colby graduation.

Japan attracted Colby missionaries in 1889, when John L. Dearing, 1884, went to that land. For fifteen years he served as President of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Yokohama. Dearing was followed by the only native Christian who, after attendance at Colby, returned as a missionary to the land of his birth. Yagoro Chiba, born in Japan in 1871, entered Colby in 1893, when Beniah Whitman was President. Whitman, who had planned to go to Japan as a missionary, had to abandon that plan because of his wife's health. He decided to give some Japanese Christian an education in America. John Dearing recommended young Chiba, who took up his American studies at Waterville.

Yagoro Chiba had a distinguished career after receiving his degree in divinity from Rochester Theological Seminary in 1898. Starting with a Baptist pastorate in Tokyo, he rose rapidly to prominence as head of various seminaries, including the presidency of the famous Kanto Gakuin and chairmanship of the National Christian Council of Japan. In 1910 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Mississippi.

In 1933, Dr. Chiba, in answer to an inquiry from his fellow Colby missionary, Marlin Farnum, wrote about his years in Waterville.

It was forty years ago that I went to Colby. As I had finished my collegiate course at Aoyama Gakuin, I was able to take Colby studies with the juniors and seniors. With them I studied ethics, psychology, English Literature, Hebrew, history and political economy. I had the privilege of living in the home of Dr. Pepper, former president of Colby and at that time Professor of Hebrew and Christian Evidence. Two of my most delightful years in America were spent in Waterville. The people were very kind to me. I was the first Japanese many of them had ever seen, yet soon I did not feel that I was in a foreign country.

Marlin Farnum and his wife, Melva Mann Farnum, both of the Class of 1923, were worthy followers of John Dearing and Yagoro Chiba in Japan. Their work was carried on during the years of international tension that preceded World War II, when they labored valiantly to promote Christianity in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Other Colby missionaries went to India and Siam, to Syria and Greece, and to the West Indies. Nor were the older Christian countries of Europe neglected.
A member of the Class of 1829 went to France, while half a century later a graduate of 1882 went to a Protestant mission in Spain. In the 105 years from Boardman in 1822 to Virginia Baldwin Kinney and Doris Gates in 1926, a total of 57 Colby men and women entered the field of foreign missions. To these were added sixteen who worked in the home mission areas. Of the latter the most distinguished was Charles F. Meserve, 1877, who, after long service as head of an Indian school in Kansas, ended his career as President of Shaw University, a Negro college at Raleigh, N. C. Noteworthy is the fact that two of Colby's home missionaries were not Baptists. Hannah Powell, 1896, a Universalist, is fondly remembered in the Carolina mountains, and Delber Clark, 1911, an Episcopalian, became a tireless worker among the impoverished derelicts of a great American city. The entire list of Colby's 73 foreign and home missionaries will be found in Appendix S.

It was the Philippines that saw the two Colby missionaries who, next to Boardman, will probably be longest remembered, for like the Christian martyrs of old they were executed for their faith. Francis Rose had graduated from Colby in 1909, and his wife, Gertrude Coombs, in 1911. In 1912 they went as missionaries to the Philippines, assigned to the Jaro Industrial School at Iloilo. In subsequent years their efforts were largely responsible for the school becoming first a junior college, then a four-year institution awarding degrees, when its name was changed to Central Philippine College. Francis taught religion, zoology, ethics, and English, while Gertrude taught French, German, mathematics, and served as treasurer of the mission. Francis was a skilled carpenter, a musician and composer, and a competent accountant. In 1936, on furlough in the States, they attended the 25th reunion of Gertrude's Colby class. Francis delivered the Boardman sermon and received from his alma mater the D.D. degree.

When the Japanese overran the Philippines early in World War II, some of the missionaries surrendered and were interned, but the Roses chose to flee to the hills with the native Christians. There they lived from April, 1942, to December, 1943. They prepared a mountain retreat, called Hopewale, reached only by a winding, narrow trail. There they built a little chapel called the "Cathedral in the Glen".

A week before Christmas in 1943 the little band was betrayed by some Filipino renegade, and Japanese soldiers swooped down upon them. All attempted to flee, but when the women and children were captured, the men all surrendered. The captors told Francis and Gertrude Rose that, since they had helped the Filipinos escape and had not surrendered when the Japanese first took over, they as well as the captured Filipino leaders had forfeited their lives. So there, in the Philippine mountains, still true to their Christian faith, Francis and Gertrude Coombs Rose fell under the executioner's sword. Among the finest of their memorials, of which Baptists have erected several in this country, is the Rose Memorial Chapel, a wing of the Lorimer building at Colby. In that tastefully designed room for small services and intimate communion has been placed the Colby Missionary Tablet, listing the names of Colby's many missionaries throughout the years.

There was no time during the nineteenth century when religious organizations were not active among Colby students. There were societies for prospective ministers, for missionaries, and for laymen. Groups were repeatedly formed to send delegations into the rural areas of Central Maine, and the old campus saw many a religious revival under some visiting evangelist or by concerted action of the evangelical clergy of Waterville.
For nearly twenty years before the turn of the century the student religious interests had come to be centered in the YMCA and YWCA. In 1877, when associations had been established in about twenty-five colleges, there was formed the International YMCA. By 1900 it included 450 local associations, one of which had been established at Colby in 1882. It was soon followed by a local association of the Intercollegiate YWCA. Each association conducted a weekly meeting and pursued a regular course of Bible study. To show that the two associations did not completely ignore each other, the 1900 Handbook said, “Occasionally during the year the YMCA meets with the YWCA in a union meeting.”

The Colby Y’s became diligent in their attendance at religious conferences. Colby men led in the formation of the Maine Intercollegiate YMCA Conference, the presidents of the Colby association were prominent in the conference of New England “Y” presidents, and the national conference at Northfield annually attracted many Colby attendants.

Activities of the religious organizations at Colby in the early years of this century were described in reminiscence by Leon Staples, 1903.

We were a heterogeneous group, rather puritanical in our conception of religion, and I for one was a militant crusader. We never had the cooperation of fifty percent of the men students, and at times we encountered active opposition. We were quite confident of our own righteousness and actually sought a few crosses to carry. We were earnest and sincere, but intolerant and inconsiderate. Some of us discovered that long ago it had been the practice in the ‘Bricks’ to close the day with prayer and reading of scripture. My roommate and I revived the practice. It worked, and soon many of the fellows who did not belong to the ‘Y’ were meeting with us. In our junior year this resulted in such a revival of religion that about twenty students joined local churches. The experience led my roommate into the ministry. As for me, after my Colby experience I could not live for myself alone. To be sure, my faith has been broadened, and I hope I am now more tolerant of other men; but my conception of eternal values was permanently shaped during those college years.4

Early in the century Colby students were stirred by the Student Volunteer Movement. All the Maine colleges sent delegations to the huge SVM conference at Toronto in 1902, but Colby topped the list with twenty-two delegates. The entire Maine group traveled together in a day coach, sitting up all night in order to live within a very limited budget.

After World War I President Roberts became concerned because religious life on the campus was not showing its former vigor. He recommended that there be added to the staff a full-time director of religious activities, with faculty rank, to teach courses in religion as well as direct the student organizations. The Trustees approved the new appointment, and as the first incumbent Roberts chose Herbert L. Newman of the Class of 1918. Thus began a career of sacrificial service for the beloved “Pop” Newman that ended only with his death in 1950. After serving as an officer of Field Artillery in the war, Newman had been pastor of the Baptist Church at Hebron, then briefly of a church in Worcester, before coming to Colby as Director of Religion in 1922. Newman was more than a conscientious student pastor; he continued to be a devoted Christian scholar. Receiving his B.D. degree from Andover-Newton in 1922, he earned the M.S.T.
degree in 1927, and in 1939 was awarded his Ph.D. at Boston University. When Newman died in 1950, President Bixler said of him:

His death means for Colby College an irreparable loss. Dr. Newman was a thorough Christian. He always turned the other cheek; he always walked the second mile. In his great patience and generosity he was tolerant almost to a fault and never allowed his own ideas to make him blind to what was true in the convictions of others. At the same time, where principle was concerned, he was adamant. He knew what he believed and why. His religious faith was backed up with sound philosophical insight. As a teacher and religious leader he had the respect and affection of many generations of Colby students, and as a friend he had a unique place in hundreds of hearts.

In his patient, unobtrusive way, Herbert Newman strengthened the Christian associations, widened their area of service, and eventually consolidated them into a single organization. During the 1930's religious groups in New England colleges cooperated in what was called the Student Christian Movement. Herbert Newman wholeheartedly endorsed this plan to unite and consolidate various and sometimes conflicting organizations. By 1937 he had established a unit of SCM at Colby, in which were five cooperating groups: YMCA, YWCA, Forum, Boardman Society, and Freshman Cabinet. Forum was a Sunday evening meeting sponsored by SCM, featuring speakers on subjects of interest to the whole college community—such subjects as marriage, Marxist philosophy and Christianity, the church and world peace, Christianity and democracy, the Christian attitude toward war.

SCM started the first of what are now called the annual religious embassies. It was originally styled the Fraternity Religious Embassy. In the spring of 1938 it brought to the campus nine religious leaders to live as guests for several days in Colby's nine fraternity houses. Other activities of SCM was the compilation of an annual directory of student religious preference, a Christmas party for underprivileged children, an Easter sunrise service at the Central Maine Sanatorium, and the singing of Christmas carols to shut-ins. In 1937-38 SCM sent speaking and musical delegations to twenty-five Maine churches, gave a religious drama "The Color Line," and for the Christmas vespers service produced a fourteenth century mystery play of the nativity. Other projects included folk dancing, summer programs, Lenten calendar, mid-year teas, and Forum suppers. Though having "Christian" as the middle word in its title, it was SCM that made the first concerted action at Colby to harmonize relations of Protestants, Catholics, and Jews in the student body.

In an article in the Alumnus entitled "The Mysterious SCM" Newman predicted in 1938 a merger just around the corner.

Increasingly at Colby men and women have been doing common tasks together. This spring discussion of a merger of all our religious groups into one has been a live topic. Do not be surprised if this union takes place within a year. As the result of a vote this spring, the twelve committees of YMCA and YWCA will next year be joint, with men and women on each. We seek also closer fellowship between the various religious groups, which now include Mohammedan as well as Jewish, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant. In such fellowship the Colby spirit is strengthened, as is also the cause of universal brotherhood.
When the merger took place in the fall of 1939 the officers of the new joint Student Christian Association were President Harley Bubar, Vice-President Nannabelle Gray, Secretary Geraldine Stefko, and Treasurer Gordon Jones, all of the Class of 1940. Herbert Newman's patient, persistent efforts had resulted in the religious organizations at Colby taking the lead in making the College truly coeducational.

Alumni returning to Colby in the 1930's after years of absence, were surprised and sometimes shocked at the changes they observed in student manifestations of interest in or apathy toward religion. President Johnson tried to convince skeptics that all such changes were not for the worse when he reported to the Trustees in 1932.

It is doubtful if the members of your Board are aware of the changes that have taken place in the religious life of the College. The required chapel service with which we of the older generation were familiar has been given up in many colleges and is relatively ineffective where it remains. To President Roberts the daily chapel gave opportunity for exercising a powerful influence upon the lives of individuals in the entire college community. Toward the end of his life, however, and to his keen regret, the attendance steadily diminished. When I came to the presidency, I found that three weekly chapel services each for men and for women, held separately, had lost most of their religious significance and were very slimly attended. Consideration by the President and the Student Council resulted in the requirement of attendance at assemblies, not religious exercises, on alternate days for men and women, with the programs prepared by a joint committee of students and faculty. At these assemblies worship has had a diminishing part and has almost disappeared. We have therefore instituted a voluntary service of worship on each Wednesday morning, with a robed choir of forty voices. Attendance at this service has been well sustained. A group of four invited visitors, including the Chaplain at Yale, recently spent three days holding conferences with our students. One of the visitors said that he found more evidence of interest in vital religion at Colby than at any other New England college. I am convinced that there is more genuine religion among our students than was present in my own college days, though the forms of its expression are certainly different.

President Johnson later made it clear that the varied nature of Colby students and the widening area from which they came could not but make more complex the demands upon religious organization at the College. In one of his last reports to the Trustees (November, 1941) Johnson pointed out that, among the freshmen men, Baptists ranked third, being exceeded by Congregationalists and Roman Catholics, and only slightly outnumbered the Episcopalians. He noted that one out of every four freshmen men had parents one or both of whom were born in foreign countries, and that among those parents were graduates of the ancient universities at Bologna, Heidelberg, Cologne, London, and Kiev. "It is plain," said Johnson, "that Colby, once a college attended by native sons and daughters of Maine, predominantly from Baptist families, has become cosmopolitan geographically, racially, and religiously."

When the end of World War II finally enabled the release of building materials and completion of the Lorimer Chapel, President Bixler was determined that the opportunity to vitalize religious life on the new campus should not be
lost. Under the sponsorship of the Northern Baptist Convention, he set up a visiting Commission on Education and Religion, to study the situation and recommend steps to be taken to integrate effectively the intellectual and spiritual aspects of college experience. The commission had distinguished personnel: Howard Jefferson, then Professor of Philosophy at Colgate and later President of Clark University; Rev. Newton Fetter and Donald Faulkner of the Baptist Board of Education; Adelaide Case of the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge; Sidney Lovett, Chaplain of Yale University; Elizabeth Johns and Wilmer Kitchen of the Student Christian Movement of New England; and Professor Newman.

The Commission’s most significant recommendation was for the employment of a college chaplain, to make the Lorimer Chapel a true center of religious activities on the Colby campus. Herbert Newman already had more than he could do, and he was not a well man. Directing the Christian Association, meeting constantly with groups, giving untold hours to advising individual students, and teaching his heavily enrolled classes, made it out of the question that Newman should take on the added duties of the chapel. The first incumbent of the new post of College Chaplain was therefore Rev. Walter Wagoner, with a B.A. from Yale in 1941 and B.D. in 1945. He had served as Chaplain in the U. S. Marine Corps during the war, with duty in Japan, had been Associate Chaplain of the Church of Christ in Yale University, and just before coming to Colby had served as minister to Congregationalist students at Yale. His wife was a niece of Rev. Arthur Phelps, formerly pastor of the Waterville Baptist Church. Wagoner began his duties at Colby in 1947.

Weekday chapel service on Mayflower Hill presented a problem. A tight schedule, necessitated by holding of classes on two campuses, and with parts of the student body housed two miles from the Lorimer Chapel, left no time that could be set aside exclusively for a daily chapel. It was therefore decided to conduct voluntary services four days a week in competition with the class schedule, in the somewhat forlorn hope that most students who wished to attend could be free for at least one of those chapel hours. To the end of his administration President Bixler regretted that arrangement and insisted that weekly chapel would never be meaningful at Colby until some hour could be set aside exclusively for it. In 1960 a voluntary weekly service was still being attempted but attendance was very small.

The Sunday service in Lorimer Chapel had quite the opposite experience. It was successful from the start. When Wagoner left in 1950, he was replaced by Central Maine’s outstanding preacher, Rev. Clifford Osborne of the Waterville Methodist Church. Student attendance at the Sunday service was augmented by many faculty families and by persons from the town. In addition to one of Dr. Osborne’s eloquent sermons, the congregation could be sure of excellent music from a well trained choir, and of a worshipful atmosphere instilled by the tones of the great Mellon organ.

Clifford Osborne, a graduate of the University of London, had held several pastorates in New York and Maine when he came to Waterville as the Methodist minister in 1941. He had therefore been in Waterville nine years and had an enthusiastic following of Colby students and faculty when he was chosen for the college chaplaincy in 1950. He was an outstanding teacher as well as preacher, and his classes in religion enjoyed large enrollment. Appointed originally as Chaplain and Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Osborne was promoted to a full professorship in 1958.
In 1947 there was formed the Inter-Faith Association to coordinate the activities of the religious groups outside Protestant circles. It took charge of Campus Chest, the annual campaign for charity funds, and it conducted the annual Religious Emphasis Week, outgrowth of Newman's original Fraternity Embassy, and an occasion to be known by 1958 as Religious Convocation. Normal Protestant interests were still handled by the Student Christian Association, but as the years went by, loss of vitality in the Student Christian Movement in New England caused the SCA at Colby to become less influential and its constituents more divided denominationally. While SCA still existed in 1960, the Colby Gray Book listed it as only one of seven organizations cooperating on an equal basis with the Roger Williams Fellowship (Baptist), the Canterbury Club (Episcopal), the Channing-Murray Society (Universalist-Unitarian), the Christian Science Organization, the Newman Club (Catholic), and the Hillel Society (Jewish).

Although religious life on the campus had undergone further alteration since the day when President Johnson had noted the startling changes obvious in 1932, Colby had by no means become a pagan or even a completely secular college. Besides the students who loyally attended the Lorimer Sunday service, large numbers were regular attendants at Waterville churches. Some of the groups were especially active under the leadership of local clergy. Visiting speakers found students eager to discuss religious problems, and in the 1950's there were still members of the graduating class who embarked upon careers in religious work. The stern Calvinism of Jeremiah Chaplin no longer dominated classroom and dormitory. No group of students any longer agonized over the salvation of their sinful classmates. No one was aware of any superior piety in the members of the "Y". The student religious leaders danced and played cards like almost everyone else. But despite those changes, despite what old folks deplore as the increased worldliness in our colleges, the young men and women who attended Colby in the middle of the twentieth century were well aware that man does not live by bread alone. Deep in their hearts they could still say with the founders of Waterville College, "In the beginning God."