

Colby



Colby Magazine

Volume 101
Issue 3 *Fall 2012*

Article 7

September 2012

In Their Footsteps, In Their Words: Special Section, 1813-1863

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine>



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2012) "In Their Footsteps, In Their Words: Special Section, 1813-1863," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 101 : Iss. 3 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol101/iss3/7>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Colby College Archives at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Magazine by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Colby.

to the sea
and that the sea
of the monsters of the deep
itself above the surface of the
myself altho' at the distance
great whales, sea serpent,
which inhabit the mighty
to Him who made them, &
if their almighty maker is
ant scene has been
in the sea

IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS IN THEIR WORDS

The Maine Theological and Literary Institution, soon renamed Waterville College, was a very different place from the Colby College of today.

Or was it?

To answer that question Colby turned to the records left by those who passed through the College during its first 50 years. And those letters and notes tell us that, though of a different time, Colbians of the first half-century weren't all that different from those who would follow.

A student asking for more news of home. A professor's wife wondering, with some trepidation, what life in Maine will be like. An "unworthy son" accounting for how he'd



spent his money, addressing the letter to "Honored Father, Sir." Professors complaining of students' boisterous behavior. Trustees pondering financial worries. A student complaining about his roommate. Another writing to a friend at home, urging him to apply: "If you only knew how well you would enjoy it, you would hardly wait to settle up where you are and come here immediately."

On the following pages are pieces of Colby life gleaned from faded letters and leather-bound trustee reports. A few may seem familiar. Some are being published for the first time.

You've walked in their footsteps. Now read their words.

The images and documents in this special section were selected from archival materials in the Colbiana collections in Special Collections.

To Do Good is the Greatest Object Mr. Chaplin Has

Mrs. Marcia Chaplin, her husband, the Rev. Jeremiah Chaplin, and their three children, left Marblehead, Mass., in June 1818 on the sloop Hero to journey to Waterville, where her husband would start Waterville College. Mrs. Chaplin kept a journal on the voyage. Some excerpts here:



"We are now about a half mile from Marblehead shore, so you see although we move we do not progress on our way to the Eastward. I am not however anxious about it knowing that he who holds the winds in his fists and the waters in the hollows of his hands knows how to manage them and does all things well. ... The breeze freshens. We are now going farther from our dear Danvers friends, but we are neither of us farther from our covenant God.



It is to me a consolation that I have every reason to believe that to do good is the greatest object Mr. Chaplin has in view of removing to Waterville. What the event will be we know not.



It has been really pleasant as we sailed up the river to observe now and then a meeting house. We saw a decent looking one at Phippsburg situated on rising ground. I wondered where the people would go from to attend it.

6 O'clock. One of the monsters of the deep, a whale, has just elevated himself above the surface of his liquid abode & shown himself altho' at the distance of 3 or 4 miles. But the great whale & sea serpent, with all their terrific associates which inhabit the mighty deep are completely subject to Him who made them, & will prove harmless as doves, if their almighty maker commands them. This after-

"6 o'clock. One of the monsters of the deep, a whale, has just elevated himself above the surface of his liquid abode and shown himself although at the distance of 3 or 4 miles. But the great whale sea serpent with all their terrific associates which inhabit the mighty deep are completely subject to Him who made them & will prove harmless as doves if their almighty maker commands them."

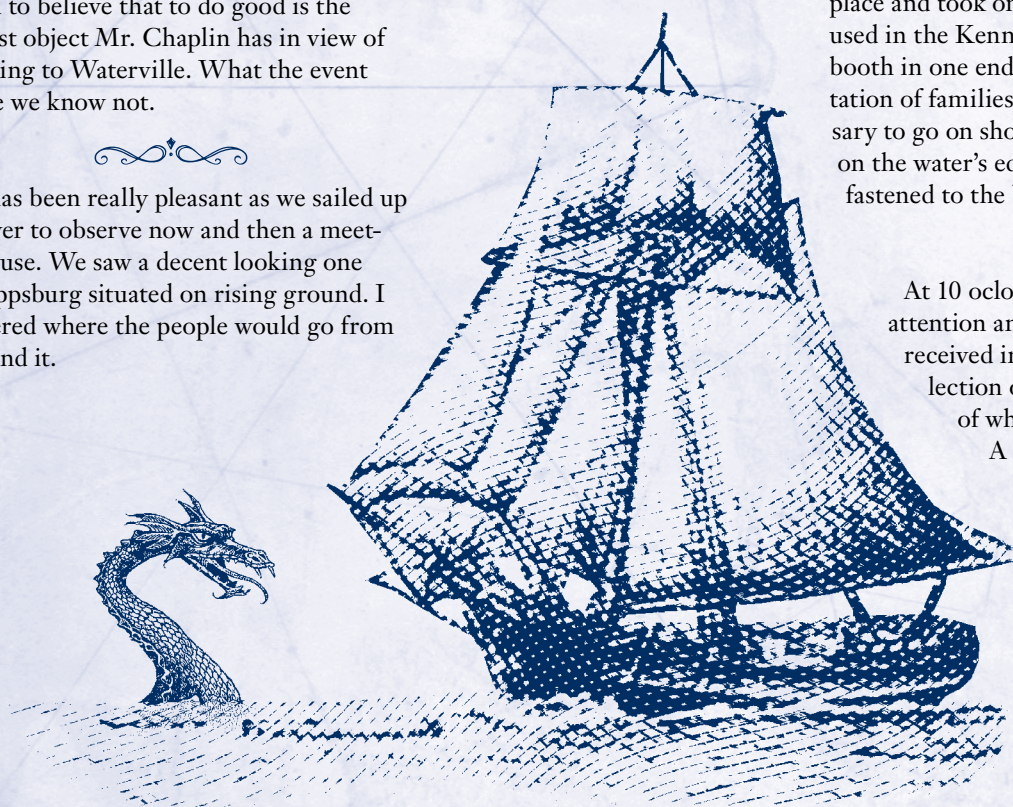


Wednesday afternoon about 2 o'clock we left the place and took one of those long boats which are much used in the Kennebec river & which being made with a booth in one end are very convenient for the transportation of families as well as goods. ... It is found necessary to go on shore and procure oxen who are standing on the water's edge with a rope fastened which is also fastened to the boat and much assists its motion.



At 10 o'clock we arrived in Waterville. ... The attention and affection with which we were received instead of banishing revived the recollection of the dear Danvers friends from many of whom we received similar kindnesses. ...

A number have called upon us and seem quite friendly. They do not seem to be such ignorant uncultivated beings as some have imagined. Many of those whom I have seen appear to be people of education & polished manners; nor have we been destitute of Christian company."



1813



1863

SEPT. 16, 1820

AUG. 1, 1817

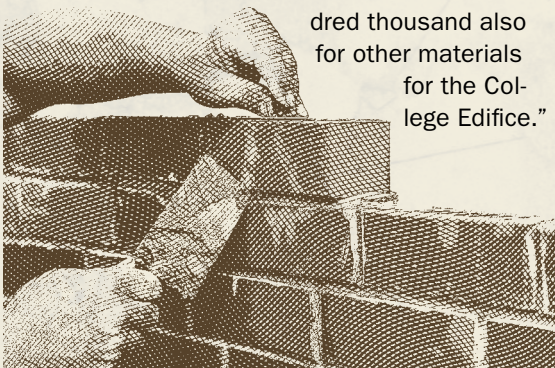
The trustees met in Bath and heard the report of the Locating Committee, charged with finding a suitable location for the new college. The board accepted the report but rejected the proposed location, in Bloomfield (now Skowhegan).

Instead, the board "voted that the Maine Literary and Theological Institution be located at Waterville on condition that the sum rais'd by the town and rais'd by subscriptions of the inhabitants of Waterville and its adjacents, in the judgment of the locating committee, are found in such a situation that they are likely to be realized."

A committee—John Hovey, Benjamin Shepard, Ebenezer Warren, and John Neal—was to purchase a plot of ground where to erect the buildings. The tuition was to be the same as Bowdoin College. Salary of faculty were set at: Professor of Theology and a Professor of Languages, \$600; tutor, \$400.



Six months later the board agreed to buy the Vaughan lot in Waterville: 179 acres for \$2000. Nine months later, in May 1819, the board voted to "erect a wooden building on the College Land. Two stories high and 40 feet by 20 feet with an ell 22 by 12. Directed to use the lumber now on the spot ... and to contract for brick to be made not to exceed two hundred thousand also for other materials for the College Edifice."



Honored Father Sir:

My expenses have been very considerable since I left home more so than I expected because I had to purchase everything I use. And as I feel accountable to you how I spend my money I give a summary account of what I have bought & expended.

The desk is a necessary article and serves as a table to write and study upon. It is a very good one has one drawer and is covered with green flannel. I think I can sell it whenever I have done with it for what it cost me. ... I was very well as to my health the first 2 weeks. After that time grew feeble on account of my intense studies so I was forced to desist. On that account I bought one bottle of wine which I think has helped me greatly.

.... Give my respects to all enquiring friends. Write to me often as you can but send in a way that they may not be expensive.

This from your unworthy son,
Elijah Foster, Class of 1823

An account of my expenses as far as I can recollect:

A pair of shoes bought in Boston	\$1.25
4 weeks board 1.50 per week	6.00
A bottle oil & lamp	.50
A pair of boots	.50
One 1/2 quire of letter paper	.16
And another expense	.25
Voyage expense	3.00
A desk & chair	2.66
A bottle of wine	.33
A bunch of quills	.25
An inkstand	.12

Total 15.02

An account of my expenses as far as I can recollect

A pair of shoes bought in Boston	\$1.25
4 weeks board 1.50 per week	6.00
A bottle oil & lamp	.50
A pair of boots	.50
One 1/2 quire of letter paper	.16
And another expense	.25
Voyage expense	3.00
A desk & chair	2.66
A bottle of wine	.33
A bunch of quills	.25
An inkstand	.12
Total	15.02

The desk is a necessary article and serves for a table to write and study upon. It is a very good one has one drawer and is covered with green flannel. I think I can sell it whenever I have done with it for what it cost me. The first cost was between 3 & 4 dollars. The bottle of wine I bought of Mr. Lovell who has helped me greatly. I was very well as to my health the first 2 weeks after that time grew feeble on account of my intense studies so that I was forced to desist. On that account I bought one bottle of wine which I think has helped me greatly. I think of beginning next week with as much strength as when I first began. I have not forgotten them to you further particulars I refer you to the letters which I sent to my father and brother. I have not forgotten them to you further particulars I refer you to the letters which I sent to my father and brother.

I Would Feed Upon the Coarsest Fare and Lie On Straw

Rev. Doct. Chaplin:

Whereas I am charged with imprudence I feel grateful that I am permitted to write you and make a simple statement of facts.

I am charged with imprudence in respect to my expenses and the manner in which I use my clothes.

In my expenses, 1. Because when I came to this place I purchased on credit some clothing and a watch. Now If I can make it appear that I stood in absolute need of these things, the crime of purchasing them will not, I apprehend, appear very great. I certainly needed a watch as I then roomed at some distance from the place of recitation and was obliged to be there at the appointed time. And as to clothing, I appeal to you, dear Sir, and to all my acquaintance in this place, whether I had any which I could appear in abroad with decency. And if I did not purchase these things on credit, how could I obtain them? I had not a cent of money. I was obliged to apply to the Treasurer of the Mass. Bap. Education Society for money to pay my expenses from Boston to this place. But, you say, "you ought not to have purchased these things without some prospect of getting able to pay for them. It is well known to most of my fellow students that I had a very encouraging prospect of being able to pay for them in the spring. Yes, so encouraging that many advised me to purchase such things as I needed. I was requested to teach a school in Palermo, for which, and for preaching, I was offered twenty-two dollars a month. I concluded to take the school and sent a letter to the Agent. The letter miscarried, and of course I lost the school, and with it, as the season was far advanced, all my prospects of getting money during the ensuing winter. Last winter I taught school two months for twelve dollars a month. This was the best school I could obtain.

I now come to the second particular upon which I shall say but few words. I have been charged with imprudence because I wear my best clothes every day. That, for nearly one year after I purchased the clothing above mentioned, I wore my best garments, I readily acknowledge; and I think I can give a very satisfactory reason. I had not other garments that I could wear unless I clothe myself with rags.



That you may know the amount of my debts I will set them down in order, as follows:

To Mr. Balkam, for watch	\$16.00
To The Waterville F.E.S., Cash	15.00
To Mr. Burleigh for cloth, trimmings and books	8.00
To Mr. Richards for shovel and tongs, slate and linen cloth	3.00
To Mr. Esty for candles and one book	2.25
To Mr. Sanborn for shoes	8.00
To Mr. Dalton for cloth	1.25
To Mr. Dunbare for room rent	1.00
To Mr. Proctor for one book	.90
To Mr. Foster for cash	1.00
To Mr. Wilbur, Boston, for books	10.00

Dear Sir, I assure you my debts occasion me great anxiety and many sleepless hours, and could I have the means to pay them, rather than be so involved in debt again, I would beg. ... Surely rather than wound the precious cause of Christ, nay, rather than obtain a finished education to prepare me for more extensive usefulness in the Gospel field, I would submit to any difficulties. I would feed upon the coarsest fare and lie on straw.

Your unworthy pupil.

John Hovey, Class of 1825
Waterville, Dec. 8, 1821



From Dr. Chaplin to Rev. Nath'l Williams

That he has been somewhat imprudent in respect to his expenses is undoubtedly true. But since the time when I called him to account, say six months ago, I have heard scarce any new complaint about him. He has evidently reformed, and if properly advised, will, I trust, make a useful preacher.



The Revival Has Been Powerful and Still Continues

What would become known as the Second Great Awakening moved through Maine in the 1820s, as revivalism drew thousands to declare their faith.

Stephen Chapin, professor of sacred theology
June 28, 1824

Instead of one, we need 50 or 100 immediately to answer the pressing calls of the church. For a number of months past, the fields in this region have been whitening for the harvest. Numbers have entered these fields and have, as we trust, reaped with joy and gathered fruit unto eternal life.



In Sidney sixty-five have been added to the church and within a few days past the prospect of a renewal of the work in that place has brightened. In Vassalboro on the opposite side of the river, a very powerful work has lately commenced. Within ten or twelve

days past, about 40 have professed hope in the Mercy of God. In Hallowell the revival has been powerful and still continues. It is in both societies and has prevailed in families of high respectability. In the back part of the town and in a part of Gardiner the work has lately commenced and numbers are there rejoicing in the hope they have passed from death and many more are bowed down under a deep sense of their sins exposure to final ruin. In Winthrop a New Church was formed last week and I had the privilege to baptize eleven and to give the right hand of fellowship to thirty-three. These were about all young converts. Sixty have been added to the church in that place since the work begun which still continues.



I trust, dear brother, that your heart will greatly rejoice in what the Lord is doing among us. You see what a wide and effectual door is opened. Shall we not wish that all who are qualified and who can be spared shall enter in?



To Pass the Remainder of His Life in a Heathen Land

President Jeremiah Chaplin, on occasion of the ordination of Rev. George D. Boardman, Class of 1822, and the challenges he will face as missionary in Burma:

FEB. 16, 1825

The native opposition of their hearts to the holy doctrine of the Gospel, is increased and fortified by all the prejudices of a religious kind which they have imbibed in early life, and which have gathered strength with each revolving year. Hence they are eminently dull of hearing, and slow to understand even the most simple truths. The more learned among them act the part of disputants, and employ against the missionary all the arts which sophistry can invent to puzzle and confound him; while the illiterate, with equal aversion to the Gospel, betray that levity of character, that sottish stupidity, that

abandonment to gross vice, and in many instances, that total destitution of the amiable and engaging, which render them, in a high degree, disgusting and repulsive. If they make any progress in Christian knowledge, it is so little that, unless his patience be equal to that of Job, it will be exhausted. ... when he pleases himself with the thought that he imparted some valuable instruction to them, he, perhaps, finds, anon, that they have no correct idea of the meaning, and are as much enveloped in the darkness of paganism as they were before. His task, indeed, somewhat resembles that of a man who is climbing the Andes, and who, after he has labored hard for a long time, and has ascended above the clouds, finds, at length,

that the summit, which he wishes to gain, is still at an immense distance from him.

The young man, my brethren, to whom I allude, and who is about to be publicly set apart for missionary labours, is, I need not tell you, a native of this State. He was bred up among us. He received his classical education at our College. We know him well. We know his honoured parents. Many of us have heard from his lips the blessed Gospel which he wishes to impart to the perishing Burmans. ... Our brother is willing to perform the most difficult part in this labour of love; to leave his native country, and to pass the remainder of his life in a heathen land. Compared with this, the duty to which we are called is altogether easy. It is to pray for the mission, and contribute a little of our temporal substance for its support.

A Bedspread, a Shovel, and a Pair of Tongs

Waterville, Sept. 4, 1831

Dear Sister,

I will give you a simple account of my situation. After leaving Father at the end of the Winslow bridge, I passed both bridges for 3 cents, and went immediately to Mr. Getchell's, my former boarding house and continued there till the next afternoon. Mr. Stackpole had a room already well furnished for me. After talking with him a while he told me that if I would procure the remaining necessary article viz. a chair or two, a pillow and when cooler weather should render them necessary a pair of sheets, a bedspread, a shovel and pair of tongs, I should quarter with him till further arrangement were made. I therefore immediately borrowed the pillow and a chair from Mr. Getchell and accepted his offer.

Mr. Stackpole is what we have accustomed to call a "clever man" although of a somewhat sanguinary temperament, in other words



"easily ruffed". I found it necessary to purchase a Greek author (Xenophore) and a Latin (Terence) which together cost 95 cents.

At our first recitation our class consisted of 8 since that time many have continued coming and it now consists of 15. More are expected this fall and still more next spring to enter our class. The majority of our class is from Mass. two from Salem, Stone and Upham by name, one from Haverhill and the others I have not informed myself of their residence.

Our instructor in Greek, Prof. Conant exhibits profound knowledge of his business, is an agreeable man and able teacher. Our instructor in Latin Tutor Chaplin is also a critical scholar, but not so pleasing in his mode of communicating instruction. We recite at six in the morning in Greek, at eleven in Latin, and again in Greek at 5

P.M. ... We rise at five. The bell for prayers is at quarter before six, thence we go to the recitation room, thence to breakfast at seven, thence to the shop till half past eight when the bell rings for study, recite at eleven, dine at twelve, then to the shop till half past two, thence to study. Recitation at five, prayers at six, thence to tea. Study hours from seven to nine to which we add one and generally two hours, then retire to rest.

I have been alone since last evening, Mr. S. having gone home, during which time I have enjoyed some of the tranquility of college life; but when he is here, there is so much running in and out, and his taste is so very different from mine on many important subjects that I find no time for that conclusion and converse with myself of which I am a particular friend, and more of this I might enjoy if I roomed alone or with one whose temperament would better correspond with my own.

Lorenzo Allen, Class of 1835

JULY 28, 1829

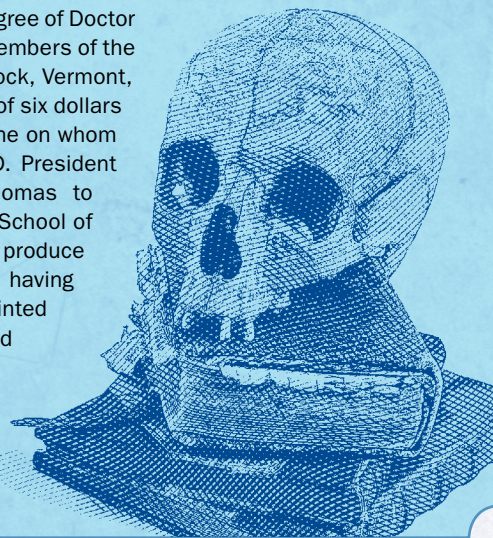
A committee assigned to report ways and means to replenish the treasury, recommended that a letter be addressed to each Baptist Society in the state asking their assistance and another letter addressing the Publick generally and soliciting their favourable attention and aid to this Institution, and that the Prudential Committee be authorized to obtain a loan, not exceeding two thousand dollars, to meet the demands on the treasury. The board also hired a professor of mathematics, George Washington Keely. Keely's salary set at six hundred dollars.

The Trustees also agreed to establish the Theological Department and that a theological professor be appointed and that the position remain permanent. Appointed Dr. Chaplin, the president, professor of divinity at the College.

JULY 27, 1830

The Trustees voted to confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine on 14 young gentleman members of the Clinical School of Medicine at Woodstock, Vermont, connected with this College. The sum of six dollars be required of each student of medicine on whom shall be conferred the degree of M.D. President Chaplin is authorized to issue diplomas to such medical students of the Clinical School of Medicine at Woodstock, Vt., as shall produce to him the regular vouchers of their having been examined by the Censors appointed by the Vermont Medical Society, and those appointed by the College.

The Clinical School of Medicine at Woodstock, Vermont, was connected with the College 1830-1833.



A High Tone of Morality Will Prevail Within These Walls

Students should not be reluctant to testify against other students. And those who do should not be shunned or worse.

That was the report of the Committee on College Discipline, which came to the Trustees and asked that the College take the problem seriously and discipline violators to the full extent of College laws. Trustees agreed, passing a resolution intended to serve as a warning to "Any young men of vicious character, the sons of misrule," who might take retribution against a student who testifies against an offender.

JULY 25, 1831

Whereas in all colleges there is found among students a strong reluctance to giving testimony before the Government against their fellow students, and usually an appalling odium is cast on those who do this; and whereas the good of our

Colleges urgently demands that false delicacy on this subject should be sternly discountenanced, the Trustees recommend to the executive government a rigid adherence to the 12th section of the 6th chapter of the College laws.

Submission to Law is honourable and indicative of a truly noble spirit. We would hope that the students of this College will be distinguished for this spirit, that a high tone of morality will prevail within these walls, and that vice, of every description, will be frowned upon.

JULY 31, 1833

Ringling Bells and Blowing Horns

A lecture by the abolition leader and orator William Lloyd Garrison in Waterville rallied students to the cause. They formed the Waterville College Anti-Slavery Society, holding a rousing meeting on July 4, 1833 (a regular day in the College calendar) in the College dining hall. The cause may have been worthy but the raucous rally violated all of the standards of decorum that President Jeremiah Chaplin held dear.

President Chaplin upbraided the students. They held their ground and demanded he apologize. He refused and the impasse ended with Chaplin's resignation.

Students continued to demand the apology and a retraction of the president's remarks, with 57 signing a petition delivered to the faculty. The trustees appointed a committee to endeavour to effect a reconciliation. The same day the committee reported back to the full board that no reconciliation would be effected and that President Chaplin was of the opinion that it would be best to accept his resignation. A professor, George Keely, was assigned to preside at commencement, the next day.

In the trustees' records, the momentous incident was recorded:

On the morning of 4th of July, a large proportion of the students in the lower three classes absented themselves from the usual recitation. While the recitation was proceeding, a company

of nearly thirty students marched backwards and forwards from the North to the South College, directly in front of the Recitations Rooms, ringing bells, and blowing horns and other instruments. Many of these also followed to their rooms those

students who had been present at recitation and made the like noises. These disturbances were made in full view of several members of the faculty. The faculty called upon them to put a stop to their riotous proceedings and with this view they promptly expelled two of the most prominent among them. This measure, Trustees were told, had the anticipated effect of restoring order in College.

The president be requested to furnish the board with a statement relative to late difficulties which occasioned his resignation.

President Chaplin: It is a day of joy, but a joy that ought always to be sober and chastened. The students are not beasts of the field or fowls of the air, but rational and immortal beings. ...

For you to pride yourselves on doing that which a boor, a savage or a brute may do as well as you is truly contemptible.



MURDER OF THE REV. E.P. LOVEJOY

Of this atrocious crime ... the mayor of Alton, John M. Krum, gives the following account.

Word of the death of newspaper editor and slavery opponent Elijah Parish Lovejoy in Alton, Ill. traveled far and wide. One account was provided by the mayor of Alton, John M. Krum. It was published on the front page of *The Observer* newspaper, in New York, Nov. 25, 1837.

NOV. 6, 1837

I was requested to go to the warehouse and state to those within, that those outside had resolved to destroy the press, and that they would not desist until they had accomplished their object; and that all would retire until I should return, which request was made by acclamation, and all soon retired to await my return.

I was replied to by those within the warehouse that they had assembled there to protect their property against lawless violence, and they were determined to do so. The mob began again to assemble with increased numbers and with guns and weapons of different kinds. I addressed the multitude and commanded them to desist and disperse, to which they listened attentively and respectfully, but to no purpose—a rush was now made to the warehouse, with the cry “fire the house,” “burn them out,” &c. The firing soon became fearful and dangerous between the contending parties—so much so that



An artist's rendering of the scene that led to the death of newspaper editor Elijah P. Lovejoy shows the pro-slavery crowd outside the warehouse holding Lovejoy's press.

the further interposition on the part of the authorities was believed altogether inadequate and hazardous to the extreme—no means were at my control, or that of any other officer present, by which the mob could be dispersed, and the loss of life and shedding of blood prevented. Scenes of the most daring recklessness and infuriated madness followed in quick succession. The building was surrounded and the inmates were threatened with extermination

and death in the most frightful form imaginable. Every means of escape by flight was cut off. The scene now became one of most appalling and heart rending interest! Fifteen or twenty citizens, among whom were some of our most worthy and enterprising, were apparently doomed to an unenviable and inevitable death if the flames continued.

About the time the fire was communicated to the building, Rev. E.P. Lovejoy, (late editor of the *Observer*) received four balls in the breast, near the door of the warehouse, and fell a corpse in a few seconds. ... A large number of persons rushed into the warehouse, threw the press upon the wharf, where it was broken in pieces and thrown in the river.



Editor's note:

Mr. Lovejoy was a native of Maine, and a graduate of Waterville College. He practiced law for a while in St. Louis and edited a paper there. ... He at length proposed the organization of a State Anti-Slavery Society, and advocated the measure with his accustomed zeal. Soon after this his press was destroyed by a mob, another press was procured and destroyed, and with the destruction of the last, came the catastrophe which we now record.

SEPT. 25, 1833

The Rev. Rufus Babcock of Salem, Mass. was chosen as President. Rev. Mr. Babcock conveyed that he would expect a salary of \$1,000 so his salary was set at that amount. The Trustees voted “to cause window blinds to be furnished to the president's house and paint said house and fences connected to the same.”

JULY 25, 1846

The students have shown a good spirit of study, and for the most part a ready observance of the laws of the College. The order of the College has however met with a few interruptions.

On the evening of the annual Exhibitions of the Senior Class, three members of the sophomore class were guilty of excessive drinking, for which they were reprimanded before the Faculty. In June on occasion of the Masonic Celebration

at Augusta and of the Annual Celebration for the Maine Wesleyan Seminary at Readfield, seventeen students left town without permission. Seven of them later declared that they would not, in similar circumstances, leave town without permission. Decided no further consequences would follow should their conduct be satisfactory in the future. Four others, called before the faculty, refused to express like purpose, and were put on probation of one term.

DEBT CRISIS | AUG. 11 1840

An Appeal to the Friends of Literature, Science, and Religion

Declining enrollment and burdensome debt accompanied the resignation of President Robert Pattison in 1839. He was not immediately replaced. Instead a fundraising campaign obtained commitments of \$10,000 from citizens of Waterville, on the condition that the College raise another \$50,000 elsewhere. Professor George Keely led the effort by example, foregoing half his salary and leading faculty in fundraising efforts.

Having launched a \$10,000 subscription campaign The Trustees resolved that it is not expedient to elect a President of the College at this meeting—for the reason that until the College is relieved from its pecuniary embarrassment and its finances are in the prosperous condition which it had just reason to expect that they will obtain within a few months, we cannot offer those conclusive and

satisfactory assurances of permanent support, which we desire to present to candidates suitably qualified, which they have a just right to expect.

The Board reported “great satisfaction” in the results already obtained. By appeals to the liberality of the friends of literature, science and religion in this state and entertain a strong conviction that that sum of 50,000 dollars originally contemplated to be raised will be obtained and to this end the trustees solicit the aid of the friends of learning in other states to whom they pledge their unceasing exertions for the furtherance of the best interests of the College.

Trustees voted that Professor Keely be required to perform the duties of President of the College until a President be elected.



250 Octavo Pages of Smythe's Lectures on Modern History

Professor Martin Anderson, Class of 1840
Report to the president, 1845

For the purpose of improvement in elocution, the classes have been divided each into four equal parts, one of which has declaimed every Wednesday afternoon in the Chapel. ... The articulation, accent, and gesture of each student have been criticized and such general remarks made as were suggested by the various deficiencies or excellencies noted.

During the first term the sophomore class was met daily at 4 o'clock for instruction in Rhetoric, for elementary teaching in the principles of Taste, Figurative Language, and Style. Blair was used as a textbook. The class recited 164 pages octavo in this work, occupying thus the first half of the term.

During the second term a voluntary exercise was attended once a week in Shakespeare. The principal parts of *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* were read and accompanied with a reviewing commentary, directing the minds of those who attended to the general principles of literary criticism.

During the third term the senior class studied 250 octavo pages of *Smythe's Lectures on Modern History*. The facts necessary to understand fully the allusions of the author were as far as possible supplied by conversation and by answers to the questions of the students which they were encouraged to make freely.

AUG. 10, 1841

The Trustees elected Eliphaz Fay of Poughkeepsie N.Y. president. The board also noted the death of the Rev. Chaplin, president of the College from 1822-1833, and resolved to “entertain a grateful remembrance of the able, untiring and successful labor of the late President Chaplin, and cordially tender our sympathies to his afflicted family in their present bereavement.”



APRIL 12, 1847

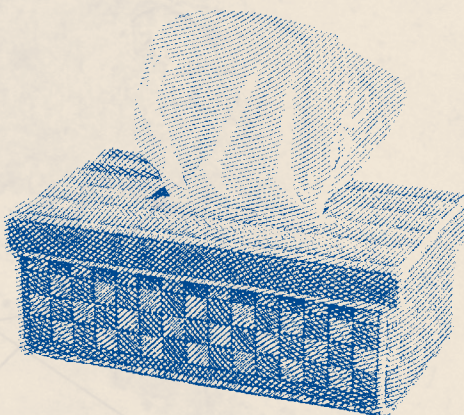
I Wish You Would Write Soon

Waterville, April 12, 1847

Dear Mother and Sisters one and all,

I have been waiting for some one to write but I have got tired of waiting and have resolved to write myself. I am enjoying first-rate health and feel as happy as a clam in high water. The lessons are all easy and I can get them and not study six hours each day, although I study more than that. Why have some of you folks not written? I believe I wrote a great long letter and all I got for it was a pair of pants and a bundle of books and three or four lines of writing. You must write soon "all of you" it is cheaper to write letters now than to send papers.

This term is almost out and we have a vacation of ten days and where to spend that time I do not know. I don't know whether to go to Norridgewock go home or go to Boston next vacation. There are a number of students going up to Boston next vacation if the boats will carry them cheap and as Pa promised me that I might go up there last winter if I would be a



good boy and study hard enough to enter college but as I kept school last winter I suppose that he would have no objections to my going now. I wish you would ask and remind him of his promise and if he don't want me to go find out what my uncle's name is in Norridgewock and let me know before the three weeks are gone.

How are all the folks? Give a kiss to all the little folks and my love to all the great

folks and take some for yourself. I wish you would write soon and answer all my inquiries and tell me about every thing that is going on in Old Town, whether Ma and Pa have moved, how many scholars you have got and who they are and everything you can think of and something more. ... I want you all to try and see if you cannot make out to write a letter. I think it is a great pity if four women can't make out to write me one letter while I have to dig Greek roots all day and then set down and write a great long letter and if I don't write every week you will say when I get home, "Why John, why have you not written. I guess that you have forgotten you had a home" and you will make a terrible fuss about it. When you scold me for not writing you must think that I have a great many to write to while you have only one besides me but you can drum on that old piano and not think of me as if I was of no consequence.

From your most affectionate and almost forgotten brother and son,

John A. Blanchard, Class of 1850

JAN. 10, 1853

The Board decided to raise \$20,000, \$12,000 for endowment of a new professorship, and eight thousand dollars of which shall be a fund, the income of which shall be appropriated towards paying the term bills of such indigent students as the faculty of the college may select. Subscriptions of \$500 or more will constitute a scholarship, to receive the name designated by the donor.

JUNE 25, 1854

To John Ellis Payson,

You are well aware, I suppose, that this is our last term – in fact it is our last week of Coll-life. We shall pass our last examination—i.e. six of us—next Saturday. Good!

As to graduating, I don't know how that will turn out yet. You know, I presume, of the difficulty the class had (the graduating class of last year, I mean) last year. Well, the same trouble exists this year, only it arises a

little earlier but in the same form.

I have said, the class: there is, however, one exception. If we were as well united as the class last year we could no doubt carry our point. But you know we always have one ass—one tool—one canis facultatis—in our class. He says he shall speak anyhow. He wants to make a "sperge" I expect. Well let him try it. We'll hiss him off the stage.

**Cyrus Lander
Class of 1854**

I Think You Will Repent It If You Do Not Come Here

I received your letter a short time since, but could not feel satisfied until I might write you again and urge upon you the superior advantages which you can enjoy here over other places. I think you will repent it if you do not come here. The faculty is probably as good as can be produced in the U. S., and they take more pains than in many other places, especially in X College. I know you would be highly pleased with our professors. The discipline is better than at X. Here is less rowdyism than there. Here the course of study is not so rapid but more thorough. Here the expenses are much less. Here the faculty manifests more interest for the student in his lessons. Here the under classes are treated with more respect, especially the freshmen. Here there is but little difference in classes except among the few rowdies, a thing of no note. Our lessons are short and well prepared. About one half page in Greek and 2/3 in Latin. We parse nearly all of this, and review it and review it.

If you only knew how well you would enjoy it, you would hardly wait to settle up where you are and come here immediately. The colleges are situated about 1/5 of a mile from the business part of the village, on a delightful green, just as pleasant as anyone could ask for. Hard by the college glides the



beautiful Kennebec. And on the other side, a few rods distant, are the depots of the K and A R. R.

Another and still stronger reason that I shall urge is that this class would suit you far better than any you will ever find at X. If you come soon you can have a room with me and board in our club. Even the class sends their respects and wants you to come.

You can enter the class without any trouble. We have been only about 20 proposi-

tions in geometry. Bring a recommendation from Father Walsh and Mr. Gersey. Come along now, if you are coming, quick. Tell my love to all my friends and then start right off. But If you are determined not to come, please write as opportunity offers. Yours in haste, Colby.

Letter from Colby Lamb, Class of 1853, to John Payson, who entered Waterville College, Class of 1854.

DEC. 18, 1855

The Trustees received a paper prepared by the faculty on the condition and wants of the College. It was voted "that the time has come for making a vigorous effort to increase the funds and efficiency of the College."

The board voted to begin a fundraising subscription to raise \$60,000, clear of all expenses, to be paid into the treasury.

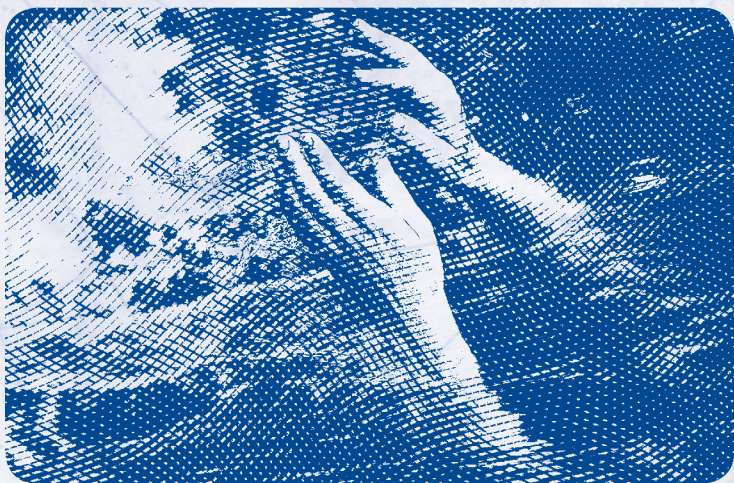
AUG. 10, 1856

The Trustees noted the death of Hon. Timothy Boutelle, member of board when the College first incorporated in 1821, until his death. "While we leave it to the religious society with which he was connected to estimate his religious character, to his political friends to care for his fame as a statesman, and to the members of the legal profession to set forth his abilities as

a counselor at law, to the people of Waterville to honor his virtues as a citizen. ... We feel it our duty and privilege to record our recollection of him as a wise and judicious friend of science and literature and as a firm and persevering friend of Waterville College. The minds which he helped to cultivate are living memorials to the worth of his endeavors."

1855

He Was Last Seen Striding In the Direction of the River



I want here to refer to an incident of our time in college. The tragic event of our course occurred in June 1855. It was just as we were about to graduate. The name of John Woodman, a member our class and XI chapter, appears in the list of alumni by a vote of the Trustees although he did not live to see his diploma. He was a fine scholar and one of our most esteemed brothers. It is generally supposed that he would have received the highest class honor at Commencement. He was drowned in the Kennebec and whether it was by accident or otherwise has never been known to this day. This was near the close of our final examinations. I was with him in his room an hour on the morning of his death preparing for a recitation. We reviewed together our German, which included Schiller's poem "The Diver" containing a vivid picture of the sights at the bottom of the sea. The bell rang for class and I went to my room. He was not at the recitation and was last seen with his peculiar swing striding down the walk through the willows in the direction of the river. It was a bright Sunday morning when nearly all the students were formed into a search party determined to clear up the mystery. It was not long before his body was found floating in an eddy a little above North College. It was a sad time for us especially our brother Kappas, as he was one of our most beloved and faithful associates.

—Charles Foster, Class of 1855



AUG. 10, 1859

The Trustees entered into an arrangement with Brown University to raise funds, \$300,000 for the two, and "to procure students for said institutions without giving undo bias in favor of either."

"Not less than one third of the whole amount so raised and paid in is to be for foundations of scholarships, not less than half to be for the benefit of sons of preachers of the gospel, provided there be so many worthy application."

APRIL 1861

News of the attack on Fort Sumter reached Waterville, and drill was started that day on campus. "Many students enlisted at the first opportunity," said George Illsley, Class of 1863. "Forty of them went down on the stern-wheel steamboat to Augusta and took the boat to Portland."

Wrote Richard Cutts Shannon, Class of 1862, "Most of us had never fired a gun and would not have recognized the uniform of an American soldier if we had seen one. We went to the war with resolute but sad hearts, solely because an inner voice whispered, 'You must.'"

AUG. 1, 1863

The Trustees received the treasurer's report. The total resources of the College, excluding real estate, are \$34,141.25. Expenditures for the ensuing year include salary of faculty, \$5,500; allowances to students in scholarships, \$800. Resources to meet expenses in ensuing year include probable amount of tuition, \$2,800, and rent of President's house and lands, \$130.

The Colby Echo.

Vol. I.

WATERVILLE, MAINE, MARCH, 1877.

No. 1.

COLBY UNIVERSITY.

(Waterville College until 1867.)



FACULTY OF INSTRUCTION.

REV. HENRY E. ROBINS, D.D., PRESIDENT, Babcock Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy.	
REV. SAMUEL K. SMITH, D.D., Professor of Rhetoric.	JULIAN D. TAYLOR, A.M., Professor of the Latin Language and Literature.
MOSES LYFORD, LL.D., Professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy.	LABAN E. WARREN, A.M., Professor of Mathematics.
JOHN B. FOSTER, LL.D., Professor of the Greek Language and Literature.	ATWOOD CROSBY, A.M., M.D., FRED M. WILSON, A.B., M.D., Instructors in Gymnastics and Military Drill.
EDWARD W. HALL, A.M., Professor of Modern Languages.	PROFESSOR J. B. FOSTER, Secretary.
WILLIAM ELDER, A.M., Merrill Professor of Chemistry and Natural History.	PROFESSOR E. W. HALL, Librarian.

THE COURSE OF INSTRUCTION is substantially identical with that of the best New England Colleges. Great complaint is everywhere made that the cost of a College Course in our larger institutions is becoming so great as practically to exclude all save the sons of the wealthy. It is the aim of the Trustees of COLBY to furnish as good an education as the larger Colleges, at the lowest practicable rate. Indigent students receive aid, upon certain conditions, from the Scholarship fund, which reduces the regular charges two-thirds, or more. The following is an estimate of the necessary expenses of a student, not including furniture, books, apparel, traveling, and board in vacations:—

Tuition and Room Rent	\$42 00	\$42 00
Incidental Expenses	18 00	18 00
Board, from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per week	97 50	to 136 50
Fuel, Washing, and Lights	30 00	50 00
Amount	\$187 50	\$246 50

Books and furniture may be sold when the student has no further use for them. In this case the expense will be light. A club, under the control of the students, has been established on the College grounds, the price of board in which is restricted to \$2.50 per week. Catalogues and further information will be given upon application to the President.

A Time of Change:

The period 1863-1913 was one of dramatic events, from Gardner Colby's gift to the admission of women. Read about it "in their own words," Winter 2013 *Colby*.