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In Their Footsteps, In Their Words: Special Section, 1914-1963

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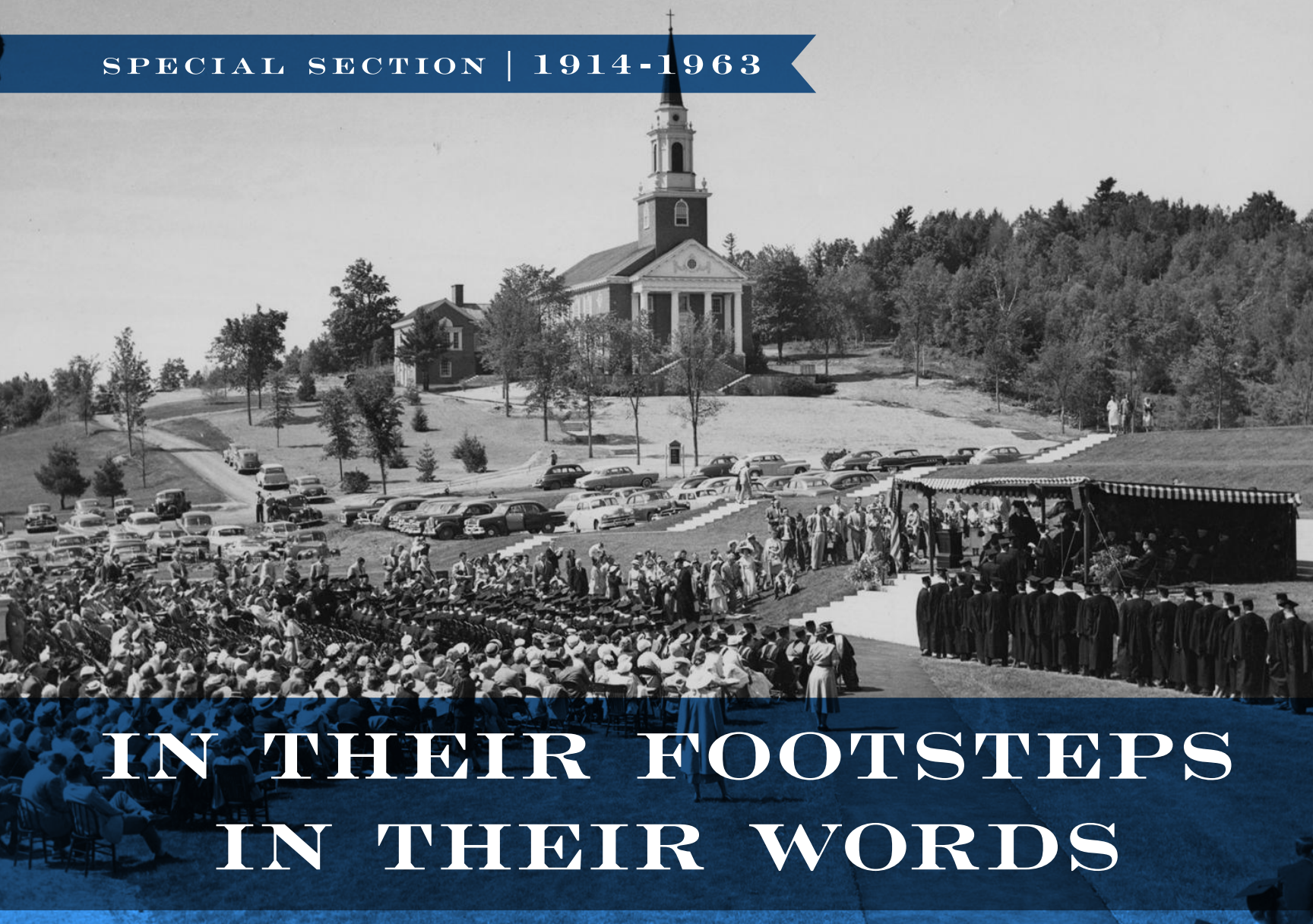
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IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS IN THEIR WORDS

Three wars. A devastating economic depression. Construction of an entirely new campus from scratch. And all in 50 years.

The period that began as World War I erupted and ended as the tumult of the 1960s loomed was marked by a series of unprecedented events that could have mortally wounded a modestly funded liberal arts college in central Maine. The Great War emptied the campus. World War II turned Colby into a military training center. The bold decision to move the College to Mayflower Hill was sandwiched by the Depression and the Korean War and marked by the return of World War II veterans, no longer the naïve students who left to fight for their country but more determined than ever to resume their education.



Throughout this period Colby declared itself ready for whatever the future would bring.

“When the Civil War depleted the classrooms, it was predicted that Colby would have to close, never to reopen,” Dean Ernest C. Marriner wrote to Colby servicemen in 1942. “But a greater Colby grew out of that disastrous time. When men left the campus almost as a body in the spring of 1917, it was again predicted that Colby was done for. But a still greater Colby arose after the armistice. Now the Cassandras again doom us to oblivion, again say that Colby is all through.”

Not at all. In fact quite the opposite—as evidenced by the stories and images on the following pages.

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

Commencement 1957, with Lorimer Chapel in the background and graduates assembled on the lawn of Miller Library. The two buildings were the first to be constructed on Mayflower Hill as the College moved from its original campus in downtown Waterville.

OCT. 13, 1915

In the trenches somewhere in France

Murray Morgan 1915
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light
Infantry

Dear Friend Capt. Harold Pepper,

Have been in the trenches but expect to go out for a rest in a few days. Have been under all sorts of fire, rifle, machine gun, hand grenades, trench mortars, shrapnel shells and high explosives and have seen what real war is like. My chum, a yankee from New York got one through the arm yesterday and another yankee fellow from Pratt Inst. stopped a trench mortar. They haven't found him yet but such is war.

Well, Capt. every one that writes to me says, "I suppose your chums at College write you all the news so it will be of no use to me to send news." No this is just what they don't do so I never get any news. I would like to know the number of freshmen this year, some football dope, frat politics, etc. If you should see any of my Delta Upsilon friends tell them to write news and not ask for photos. This is not a photographers establishment, nor a health resort but a place where one lives mostly in the ground and news is not as scarce as Hell.

Au revoir,
Murray

*Murray Morgan
died in action
in the Battle of
Verdun in June
of 1916.*



Lt. C.M. Bliss: The supreme sacrifice

Word has been received in this city of the death of a former Colby man, Lieutenant Carlton Merrill Bliss, which was the result of an airplane accident on Nov. 1. When last heard from by his people he was in Sussex, England. Lieutenant Bliss was born in Attleboro, Mass., on June 9, 1895, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Bliss. He graduated from the Attleboro high school in 1914

OCT. 13, 1915

and later attended Colby College in the class of 1918, being here for nearly two years.

This makes the number of Colby men who have made the supreme sacrifice fourteen.

—*The Morning Sentinel*



During war, Colby opening delayed for harvest

President Arthur J. Roberts: College did not open this year until the eleventh of October, so my annual news-letter to the sons and daughters and friends of Colby is somewhat belated. Bates, University of Maine, and Colby decided upon that date for beginning work in order that both junior volunteers and college students might be available for harvesting the crops. The later opening has been amply justified and as long as the War lasts should be our regular practice. By shortening vacations and omitting holidays we shall pretty nearly make up for lost time.

... Of the Class of 1918, twenty-three men are engaged in military service; of 1919, twenty-seven; and of 1920, fourteen,—a total of sixty-four undergraduates. Of the class of 1917, twenty-two men are in

NOV. 21, 1917

army and navy. In the lobby of Chemical Hall is posted a list of a hundred and ninety Colby men who are in the war, and the list is steadily lengthening.

Subscriptions totaling something more than seventy-five thousand dollars had been secured without much effort, and just at the outbreak of the war the Committee was maturing plans for a general campaign for endowment. But immediately upon the declaration of the war the Committee felt that it would be unwise and even unpatriotic to attempt to carry out this plan. The claims of Country come first.

—*Letter to alumni*



1914



1963

1918

During quarantine, flu kills two on campus

The one thing above all others which has made the past two months hard has been the influenza and its results. Of the time which we have been here, all but two weeks have been spent in quarantine. The quarantine has been put on three times. During the second imprisonment on the campus, over one fourth of the men had the influenza. Two of these men died. Hugh L. Kelley, '21, and Raymond H. Blades, '22, were both men of the highest caliber. Their passing has left an indelible mark upon each one of us. We shall always remember that they died as truly and as bravely as though they had been killed on the field of conflict. May their names rank high on the list of Colby men who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

—The Colby Echo

JUNE 18, 1918

Students at war named at commencement

President Arthur J. Roberts:

This is the day after Commencement and I want to send a word about it to members of the Colby family scattered far afield and especially to the boys who would have been graduated yesterday if it had been for the war. ... And the absent, as their names were read one by one, and Commencement really seemed theirs as much as ours. So far as degrees are concerned, they can count on generous treatment by the College—these members of 1918 who put aside their books last year to go to war: for instance, it is entirely safe to predict that if one of these boys should wish to study medicine, he would be granted his Colby degree at the end of his first year in medical school. After the war is over, the College will do its best to see that no one's success is hindered or retarded by the sacrifice he is making now.

DEC. 4, 1919

Roberts: We must succeed and we shall

President Arthur J. Roberts:

I speak as if there is no doubt about the success of our endowment campaign. There is none, but I do not yet know where all the money is coming from! We must succeed, and if we must, we shall. We have still to secure about \$75,000 in order to meet the condition of the General Education Board. Twenty-five thousand dollars perhaps will come from former students of the College who have not yet made their pledges. The additional fifty thousand dollars must largely be secured through the efforts of those to whom this letter comes.

If you know of anybody who would perhaps be willing to invest some money in an enterprise promising large returns in human character and service, will you not provide me with all necessary information and offer suggestions as to how best proceed?



OCT. 4, 1922

Colby holds B.U. to 3-3 tie

Boston University came to Waterville Saturday with the intention of having an easy game that would serve as an early season practice. They changed their minds, and before the Colby B.U. game was over discovered that they were lucky not to have a defeat to carry back with them. The timer's horn found B.U. with their back to the wall striving to withstand the Colby attack and the score 3-3, each eleven having successfully booted a field goal.

—The Colby Echo



FEB. 14, 1923

Colby hockey team robbed in Maine loss

The Colby puck chasers met defeat at the Maine Carnival hockey game Friday afternoon. The weather was ideal for the ice game and there were a large number of spectators present to witness the battle. And battle it was! The referee, a Maine man who was ineligible to participate, failed to observe any of the ordinary rules regarding fouls.

In the third period Vale intercepted a pass in front of the Maine goal. He shot the rubber with such force that it went completely through the net. It was a legitimate goal but the Maine man failed to call it. Why he refused to sanction the goal can only be surmised.

—The Colby Echo



Colby and Boston University battle on the ice of the South End Arena in Waterville, Colby's outdoor rink.

NOV. 12, 1924

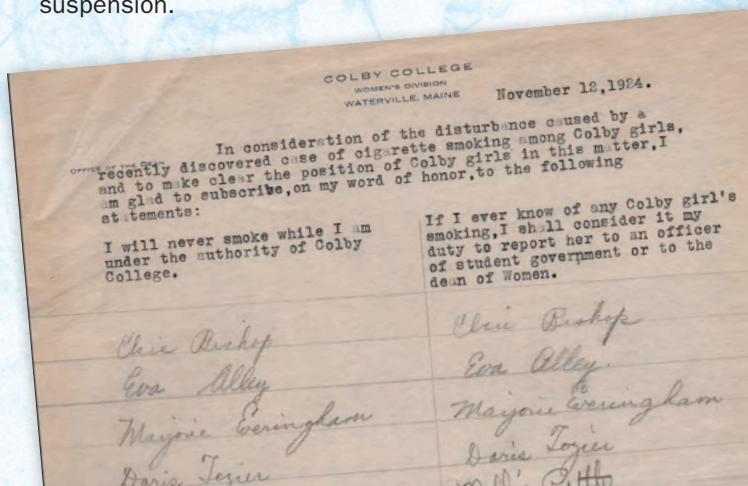
FORBID SMOKING BY COLBY GIRLS

Two Recently Suspended After Being Caught

Special Dispatch to the *Boston Globe*

WATERVILLE, Me, Nov 12 [1924]—In a statement issued today relative to a recent episode, which started with the suspension of two members of the women's division of Colby College, Miss Pauline Page of Augusta and Miss Blanche Smith of Cornish, after they had been found smoking in a room in the Dutton House, a dormitory for women, Miss Nettie M. Runnals, dean of the women's division of Colby, said that Colby is entirely unwilling to countenance smoking among its women students. The statement by Dean Runnals follows:

"Two girls were recently sent home for smoking in one of our college residences. They are suspended—not expelled. There was nothing absolutely final announced as to the length of the suspension.



JUNE 3, 1925

A flying trip by fliver

"Eb" Sansone took a flying trip by freight, automobile and buggy to his home in Norwood over the week-end.

Bill Blake and "Judge" Cary flivered down to Island Park, Saturday night, and report that the island grows more beautiful and wet with the years.

At first Eddie Nee's victrola was a welcome innovation in the hall, but everybody knows his three records by heart now.

The latest sport is shooting the rats that wander over from the dump behind Hedman Hall. Norrie Potter, with his bow and arrow, and "Duke" Jones with his air rifle, are rapidly decimating the rat colony. —The Colby Echo

DEC. 6, 1926

Indoor gymnasium: Moving beyond Indian clubs

President Arthur J. Roberts: A committee of the Trustees has just been appointed to plan a campaign for securing money to build a new gymnasium. The present gymnasium dates from the days when students were satisfied with a place to use Indian clubs and perhaps bowl. Nowadays students demand what is really an indoor field where they can practice sports and games. Our students feel that they are at a great disadvantage in being obliged to compete with colleges where gymnasium facilities are so much superior to ours.

JAN. 9, 1929

Colby isn't "their private club"

Waterville, Maine
Jan. 9, 1929.

Dear [President] Johnson:

You may be interested in this clipping, which is taken from the Waterville Sentinel of yesterday. [As] I read the words over, the more unfriendly in spirit they seem. The College has made use of the women for over fifty years; it has accepted their tuition and their loyalty and has taught them to love its traditions. They have received Colby diplomas and have borne the Colby name. Do the men think they own the College? It is true that they have managed to secure a very large representation of alumni on the Board of Trustees. That fact, however, gives them no moral right to settle the future destiny of Colby women without consulting the women themselves and giving them some voice in the decision. There is no argument for direct alumni representation on the

Board that does not apply to alumnae representation. The present situation is just about as absurd and unjust as it possibly could be. When I say this, I'm not speaking for myself alone—I know what other women think.

...

If there are a few alumni who need constant reassurance that they will not be outnumbered, they'd better pray for grace. They need it. The College isn't their private club. They must know in their hearts that they are narrow and selfish.



If all this sounds oratorical and opinionated, I'm sorry. For a good many years I did keep silent and often advised others to do so. Now that I'm older, I'm perhaps not so patient. Gentle silence doesn't seem wholly adequate in all situations. It's all very well to talk about "gradual disintegration," but when you are the one that is being gradually disintegrated, you feel that you'd like to say a few words before the parting hymn. You will understand, I think.

Very sincerely yours,
Florence Dunn [1896, dean and trustee]

Waterville to Colby: The College should grow but only among its friends

The citizens of Waterville are aroused. Desirous as we are to see Colby College expand, we shall do everything in our power to have it expand in this city. We have several splendid sites within the limits of the city, all of them suitably adapted to the relocation of the college. These sites compare favorably with any

SEPT. 23, 1930

location which can be found anywhere and most of them are far superior. We believe Colby College can grow among its friends

far better than it can among strangers no matter how well disposed these strangers may be, especially when no valid reason for moving the college away from our city has been advanced.

—F. Harold Dubord, mayor of Waterville, in *Waterville Sentinel*

SEPTEMBER 1930

Auction Colby to highest bidder?



Strong effort being made to induce Colby to move to Augusta. Situation critical. Waterville citizens ready to go the limit in opposition. Strong letter of protest from you mailed immediately will help.

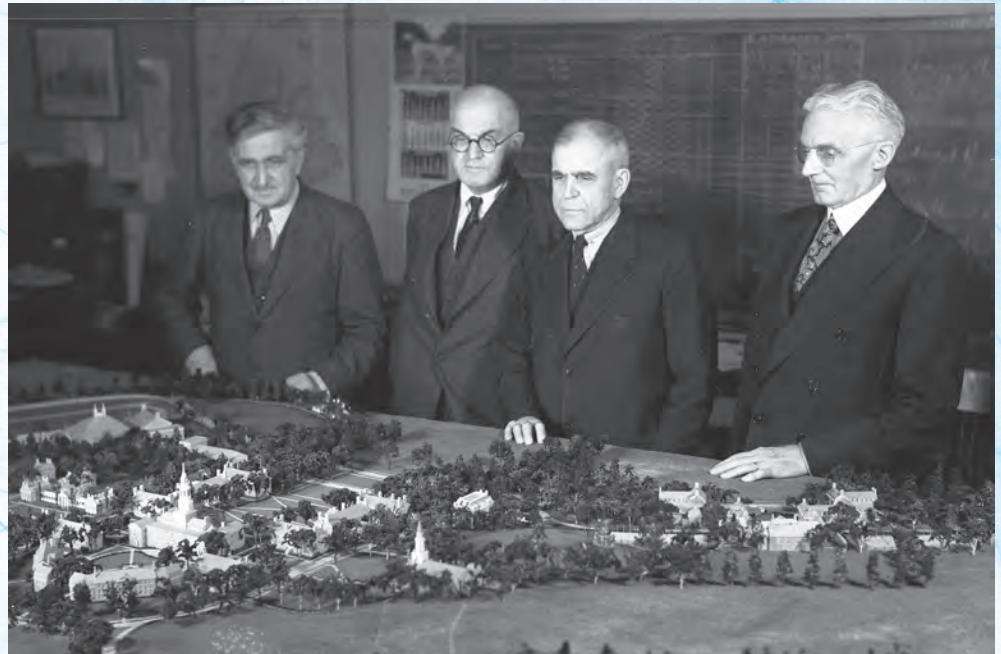
—Professor Julian D. Taylor,
telegram to alumni

Augusta May Be New Site Colby College

Board of Trustees Receive Offer of Ganeston Park as They Vote to Change Location Institution

600-Acre Tract Tendered by William H. Gannett, Publisher — Contingent Upon Raising of at Least \$3,500,000 Within 3 Years for Expansion of the College — Members of Board Inspect Ground Offered and Reserve Their Decision

Ganeston Park, a 600-acre tract located in Augusta more definitely looms as the new home of Colby College. Following the annual meeting Friday of the Board of Trustees of the College at which time it was voted to change the location of the college, the members journeyed to Augusta where the proposed site was given a thorough inspection. No decision has yet been made.



Viewing an architectural model of the Mayflower Hill campus in 1938 are, from left, trustee George Otis Smith 1893, Walter S. Wyman, President Franklin Johnson, and trustee Dr. George Averill. The Miller Library tower is visible at lower left.

1930

Game was "tighter than a Pullman car window"

The Colby ball team outplayed, outhit, and played ring around a rosie so well Saturday against Maine that the outcome was as certain as a poll vote in Mexico. The longest hit of the game came in the fourth inning when Wells, the Maine catcher, lifted a fly that was higher than a diamond necklace at Tiffany's and which landed in back of the fence skirting the track near Shannon Hall for a home run.

Ferguson, Donovan and Heddering of the Mules each got two hits apiece. The game at the start had every complexion of a loosely played contest, but ere long it became tighter than a Pullman car window.

—The Colby Echo



DEC. 1934

Dept. of Health to inspect frats

We have greatly improved the living conditions of the five fraternities occupying houses owned by the College. Not only have there been some structural changes and a liberal use of new paint and paper, but provision has been made for more thorough daily cleaning at the expense of the College and frequent inspections by the department of health. This program, together

with the cooperation of the fraternity members and their faculty advisers seems likely to bring these living quarters up to the high level of comfort and attractiveness which has existed in the women's residence halls and the freshmen dormitories for men. —President Franklin W. Johnson

1935

No weapons in freshman-sophomore competitions

Suggestions for changes in Freshman-Sophomore Relations

- Sunday and Monday are at all times to be days of truce between the sophomore and freshman classes.
- No paddles or other weapons are to be used in any freshman-sophomore competition.
- Any private feuds between individual sophomores and individual freshmen are to be decided with boxing gloves in the field

house, in the presence of suitable referees and seconds only. In case the persons involved are unequally matched the weaker may choose a champion from his own class.



FALL 1939

With new frat house, Deke can lead

Dear Brother:

New fraternity houses are to be built on Mayflower Hill and unless we are prepared to break ground for ours in June 1940, the chances are that we will have to watch Zeta Psi and Alpha Tau Omega start construction before us.

The houses are to be built in harmony with the rest of the Colonial buildings, using red brick and white trim, and they will be approximately the same in size and in cost. The detailed planning of the houses, however, is left to fraternity committees working with the Colby architect, J. Frederick Larson.

The cost is estimated at \$40,000, furnished. It is expected the college will be willing to advance up to half of the cost. Hence, it boils down to the fact that we must raise \$20,000 right away if Xi Chapter is to move to Mayflower Hill with the college.

Letter to fraternity members

DEC. 29, 1941

In wartime, teach photography, astronomy, and problems of the Far East

FROM: Elmer C. Warren
TO: President Johnson
SUBJECT: Emergency measures

In accordance with our recent conversations and your instructions I have prepared the following for your consideration:

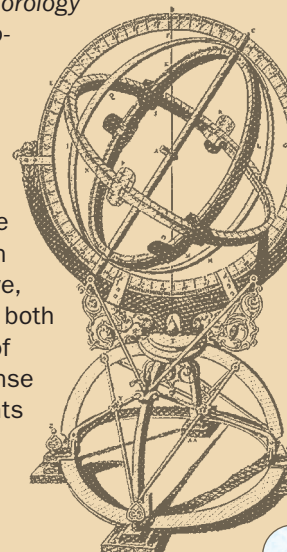
A. Courses which could be offered with a minimum of confusion:

Principles of photography
Principles of electronics
Descriptive astronomy with applications to elementary navigation
Problems of the Far East

B. Courses which, in my opinion, merit our serious consideration as prospective offerings:

History of science
Gas and oil engines
Geography
Synoptic meteorology
Consumer economics
Foods
Descriptive geometry

It seems to be the courses in A and B, above, are related to both the problem of national defense and to students recruiting.



LORIMER CHAPEL

Mayflower Hill Development
Jens Fredrick Larsen, Architect
Hegmann-Harris Company, Builders
View "A-3" - - - November 22, 1938

Scaffolding wraps Lorimer Chapel, under construction in this 1938 photo. The chapel was the first building to rise from the former pastures of Mayflower Hill.

Wars have not and will not defeat Colby

To All Colby Men in the Service:

When the Civil War depleted the classrooms, it was predicted that Colby would have to close, never to reopen. But a greater Colby grew out of that disastrous time. When men left the campus almost as a body in the spring of 1917, it was again predicted that Colby was done for. But a still greater Colby arose after the armistice. Now the Cassandras again doom us to oblivion, again say that Colby is all through. But for more than a century it has

OCT. 30, 1942

been characteristic of Colby men that their hopes exceed their fears. In the trying experiences that lie ahead for all of us alike—for you in the forefront of conflict and for us on the home front in relative ease—we shall continue to be a land of true Colby men, supported by golden memories and inspired by buoyant hopes.

—Dean E.C. Marriner

MARCH 17, 1943

Numbers decrease rapidly

We started the new term February 1st with an enrollment of about 475. The boys are dropping out rapidly and we shall probably not have more than a total of 400 by the commencement season which this year comes May 23rd. Next fall the enrollment will be even lower but we are working on the best possible set of courses for the small liberal arts college that we know we shall have for the duration of the war. If we keep up our standards and do our best to improve the level of our teaching we ought to be ready at the end of the war for the expansion that people have learned to expect of Colby.

...

When you come back to visit us after these difficult times are over, you will find a Colby considerably changed in outward appearance but with the same democratic community and the same eagerness for truth that characterized the Colby that you knew. While you are fighting to defend the ideas of democracy for which Colby stands, I want to assure you that we are trying in our own way to develop Colby's own devotion to these ideas and to maintain the college as an institution worthy of your loyalty.

—President J. Seelye Bixler

Football a memory; boys keenly missed

Dear Brother:

The old college "aint' what it used to be!" South College and North College are empty and dark and silent, only Hedman Hall being occupied by college boys. Football is only a memory and intercollegiate victory a tradition. By reason of transportation shortage, much of the class-room work of both men and women is transferred to the Union on Mayflower Hill; and on a man-power ratio, the conduct of the "Echo" is necessarily entrusted to the girls.

You who are so far removed from peaceful scenes are keenly missed. However, College Avenue and the old campus are not exactly peaceful scenes; the 21st College Training Detachment Army Air Force, with G.H.Q. in Foss Hall, is much in evidence, at all daylight hours, marching in uniform to and from classes, or standing at salute to the flag in front of Memorial Hall in the impressive ceremony of Retreat, or in strenuous activity, in undress, on Seaverns Field, or on the obstacle course in front of the Field House.

The presence of these army cadets is inspiring and serves as a constant reminder of our own Colby boys in uniform, as well as incentive to the rest of us to be

OCT. 15, 1943



Army Air Force cadets training at Colby assemble to salute the flag in front of Memorial Hall in 1943.

truly worthy of all members of the armed forces and what they are fighting for.

Yours in the bonds,
George Otis Smith (Xi) 1893



1943-44 | NOTES FROM THE FRONT

We are faced with a long terrible war. It is our duty first to win the war completely and honorably and secondly to win the peace which follows. The last war was won but the peace was lost largely because of our own short-sighted nationalistic selfishness. We must not make that mistake again, we shall not. The future path of world history can be and is to be patterned and shaped and made by us. Let us make that road a good one—a road from which all bandits and highway robbers are excluded, a

road upon which all peoples can travel in peace, honor, and security.

Capt. Francis Prescott '38

Would you think it a sign of weakness on the part of a soldier in khaki if he admitted feeling his eyes water a bit upon reading the letter sent by Dr. Bixler and you to Colby men in service? I'm sure that Colby men in every corner of this globe will feel the same lump in his throat and tear in his eye at

the old familiar Colby touch which your joint letters carried to us. They have helped so much to shorten these miles from "home."

Cpl. Frederick B. Power '46

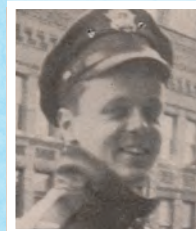
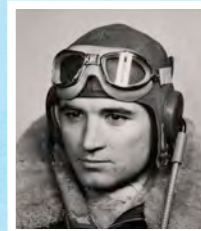
I'm sure I won't be the only old Colby-ite returning. Believe me, I am looking forward to that day. And you know, there are more people who know about Colby than one would think. And the comments are all good. I think it'll be a real rest, and a beginning of a new life indeed, to return to Colby.

Lt. Andrew Bedo '43

CASUALTIES:

- 18 2nd Lt. George M. Neilson '41 - died of wounds March 13, 1944.
Parents: John Neilson, 130 Safford Street, Wallaston, Mass.
Fraternity: ZP
- 19 Pvt. Richard E. Noyes '41 - died in North Africa on Sept. 11, 1943.
Parents: John E. Noyes, Box 63, Old Lyme, Conn.
Fraternity: LCA
- 20 Lt. R. Clarence Simmons '37 - killed in airplane crash Feb. 10, 1942.
Parents: Mrs. Ava Simmons, 195 Church Street, Oakland, Maine.
- 21 2nd Lt. Robert W. Turbyne '37 Killed in plane crash 350 miles from Lima, Peru, January 22, 1943
Parents: James Turbyne, Winslow, Maine
Wife: Mrs. Robert W. Turbyne, Winslow, Maine
Fraternity: LCA
- 22 DU. Pvt. Lyman I. Thayer, Jr. '46 - Killed in France June 1944.
Parents: Dr. Lyman I. Thayer, Gurney Lane, Glenn Falls, New York.
- 23 Capt. Harold M. Sachs '21 - died Oct. 7, 1943.
Wife: Mrs. Harold M. Sachs, 1648 Madison St., Ridgewood, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- 24 Lt. (j.g.) Robert Wit '42 - Killed in plane crash July 30, 1943.
Parents: Samuel Wit, 91 Wengwood Avenue, Brookline, Mass.
Wife: Mrs. Florence T. Wit.
Fraternity: TDP
- 25 Lt. Robert A. LaFleur '42 - reported missing in action since July 2, 1943.
Parents: Daniel K. LaFleur, East Vassalboro, Maine.
Fraternity: LCA

*His father was notified in June 1944 officially that he had died.



From left, Howard Rowell '44, James Salisbury '39, Harold A. Johnson '42. They were among the 63 Colby casualties of World War II. At left is a running list kept by the College during the war.

APRIL 15, 1944

Three boys have paid the supreme sacrifice

Dear Brothers:

Xi Chapter, DKE fraternity, has 101 members in the service. Three boys, Charles McGuire, Arnold Myshrrall and William Lyman have paid the supreme sacrifice. One brother, William Kitchen, is missing in action.

We point with pride to the following brothers:

Wally Donovan's team winning the New England Interscholastic Basketball Championship.

Lt. John Foster, safe escape from the Japs.

Lt. Com Russell, being rescued when the U.S. Warship Wasp was sunk. Com. Russell is credited with shooting down 7 Jap planes, and his squadron 77.

—E.W. Millett, secretary-treasurer



EX-LOWELL MINISTER BEHEADED

Rev. Francis H. Rose Slain By Japanese in Philippines

Served Four Years Here at Immanuel Baptist Church as Student Pastor

THE LOWELL SUN

7 o'clock

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THE WEATHER
And What Is So Raw as
a Day in June (Like This)
Down to 45 Tonight; Windy
Tomorrow; Report on Page 8.

Associated Press — International News Service — THE COMPLETE NEWSPAPER — United Press — Associated Press Wirephoto

67th Year No. 128 Lowell Mass. Friday June 1 1945 • • 22 Pages 3 Cents

A newspaper report of the death of the Rev. Francis Rose 1909, a missionary who, with his wife Gertrude Coombs Rose 1911 and nine others, was executed by the Japanese in the Philippines Dec. 20, 1943.

APRIL 1, 1944

The long way home from China mission

Dear Brothers;

In the fall of 1940 I was in T'ungshien, North China, doing missionary work. I had sent my family off to America the preceding spring at the advice of the U.S. State department. War seemed getting nearer every day and the Mission Board cabled that if we wanted to get out before the war began we better start right off.

To get a trans-Pacific liner we had to go to Manila. We arrived there just six hours before Pearl Harbor. ... The army had gone to Bataan. Manila had been declared an open city, and dropped into the lap of the Japanese like a ripe plum.

January 5, 1942 was the day that the Japanese came for us and interned us at Santo Tomas University. July first, 1942, the Japanese forced the Red Cross to stop feeding us. ... We got less

quantity and poorer quality all the time.

At first people thought internment would not last long, that MacArthur would be back in three weeks with the Marines. As time went on they finally made up their minds to settle down for a longer period. By the time I got away there were 600 private shanties in the camp.

We knew about atrocities in the war prisoners' camps. We had ways of knowing. We knew there were groups of American prisoners working in the port area.

July 22, 1943, the head of our Executive Committee told me very confidentially that my name was on the list of those to be exchanged, to go to the U.S. in a few weeks. Only 127 of us ... left the Philippines, out of nearly 5000 Americans in the Islands.—Hugh L. Robinson Xi 1918

NOV. 1, 1944

As occupiers, make effort to build goodwill

I have been pleased to receive reports from some of my former students that they have had a chance to see some of the classical art and architecture of Italy about which I used to talk to them so much. I hope some of you will also get to see the art and architecture to be found in Greece.

But most of all, I hope that all of you and all Americans "over there" will hold fast to the conviction, which some of you have heard me frequently express, that the way Americans feel toward and act toward the people of occupied countries will have a great deal to do with the kind of peace we shall achieve. God bless you all.

—Professor W.L. Carr

DEC. 1, 1944

Torpedoed and swimming in the Coral Sea

Dear Brothers,

We made many interesting cruises in the Atlantic, North Atlantic, Caribbean, and Mediterranean, hitting such ports as Trinidad, St. Thomas, Bermuda, Argentina, Iceland, Scapa Flow, Edinburgh and wound up Atlantic duties with two hair-raising trips to Malta ferrying Spitfires in for the R.A.F.

Our first (and last) maneuver was the sup-

porting of the Guadalcanal invasion. We lasted about 6 weeks in the Solomons and finally were torpedoed by Jap submarines on Sept. 15, 1942, in the Coral Sea which I recommend highly for recreational swimming except that in most places the water is over your head.

At any rate, that was a very grim experience and one which I hope I never have to duplicate.

—Cmdr. Hawley "Monk" Russell '35 USN

1914



1963

JAN. 5, 1945

Only Struck and the pilot survived

To Professor Alfred Chapman
Dear Chappie:

I arrived back in Waterville the evening of the 29th, and the next morning, just as I was finishing breakfast, Struck [Eugene Charles Struckhoff '44] came bounding up the back stairs. He looks extremely well, though he has been through hell. His plane ran into a thunderhead over the English Channel, plunging from 15,000 to 700 feet. The pilot ordered everyone to bail out, and all those who did so—everyone but Struck and the pilot—drowned in the Channel. Struck did not hear the order, since he had disconnected his intercom in order to open his escape hatch.
—Breck

DEC. 1946

After war, liberal arts needed more than ever

Higher education today is on a crest of popularity. Those who predicted that the war experience would turn boys toward the more immediately useful types of vocational training were only partially correct. Thousands have come away from their military service with a vague feeling that surface education is not enough and that a deeper understanding of "how" and "why" is the need of the day. Consequently, the liberal arts colleges all over the country are besieged by applicants. Our Director of Admissions tells me that applicants for admission to Colby next fall may well exceed by tenfold the number whom we can take.

—President J. Seelye Bixler

87 Monument Street
Portland 3, Maine
June 25, 1945

Mr. Joseph C. Smith
Colby College.

Dear Sir:

The War Department has advised us that our son Pvt. Phillips B. Pierce was killed on October 23, the date on which they previously had notified us that he was missing in action. They have instructed us to correct the date of his death on all documents on lists of war dead and have sent us his Purple Heart Citation with corrected date, the former copy to be destroyed. In your Colby Annals of May 15, you omitted my name from the list of the

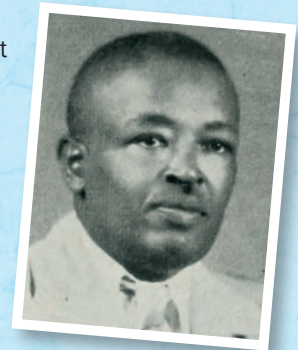
DEC. 1950

A fight for recognition is won

By Horace Lincoln Heath '30

Though my acceptance as a student at Texas University was achieved last June, the fight by Negroes for this recognition began a decade ago.

First let me state Texas University, following the pattern of southern colleges, has always been exclusively for whites. Admittance of Negroes has been fought vigorously and they were never accepted until the Supreme Court decision of 1950.



Ten years ago one of my friends, a Creole, almost broke through this color line. He had completed registration at the University and was on the verge of being enrolled when jubilant admirers gave his secret away and thereby instituted an investigation which ended in the revoking of his papers. My friend withdrew without prejudice and it was not until Herman Sweatt, a Negro mail carrier, applied for admittance six years later that the matter was re-opened.

Sweatt held a college degree with honors and had received his Master of Arts, also with honors, from Michigan. He wisely approached his proposed admittance to the college through legal channels and his actions forced the state of Texas and Texas University to adopt two new measures—a provision setting up separate classes for Negroes at the University of Texas and the founding of an "equal university" at Houston—the Texas State University for Negroes—so temporary "separate" classes might be discontinued.

Sweatt refused to accept this arrangement, winning the Supreme Court decision, June 6, 1950.

My own entrance into this picture, followed a conference between the chairman of the Board of Trustees, the state attorney general, the university president, graduate dean, and director of admissions. Apprehensively they announced that I had been accepted to study for my doctorate. Despite the fact that I held an A.B. degree from Colby and a master's from the University of Pennsylvania, their decision came as a surprise, especially to me.

Some Negro had to make a "landing" on the campus to test this court-dictated equality. The opportunity fell to me.

This was not all luck. The hand of Colby directed the influence resulting in the fine consideration and recognition which I received. I had the opportunity to set precedents for conduct of Negroes at Texas University. I trust my experience has made it easier for others of my race who will in the future follow as students there and at other southern universities.

—The Colby Alumnus

OCT. 1952

In memoriam

Class of 1940 *Charles William Graham*, 35, was killed in action in Korea, July 18. Lieutenant Graham was defending against enemy positions in the vicinity of Chorwon, North Korea. He was with the second infantry division. Last April he had been wounded and had received the Purple Heart.

Lieutenant Graham had been recalled to active duty in March '51 and was stationed at Ft. Dix, New Jersey before going to Korea. He had served in World War II from May '42 to February '46, twenty-three months of which were spent in Southwest Pacific with the American Division.

He is survived by his widow, Laura Davis, and a son, William, both of Machias; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Graham, Calais; and two sisters, Mrs. George McFarlane, Rockland and Mrs. Louis Moore, Evansville, Indiana.

—*The Colby Alumnus*

OCT. 1952

Lovejoy journalism award established

A crusading editor who is one of America's great journalists will be honored November 6 at Colby as first recipient of an award in honor of Elijah Parish Lovejoy, 1826. He is James S. Pope, executive editor of the *Courier-Journal* and the *Louisville (Kentucky) Times*. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Lovejoy's birth.

The award will be made annually to a member of the newspaper profession who has made a significant contribution to American journalism. How appropriate that it should honor Lovejoy, America's first martyr to freedom of the press!

The recipient, to be known as a Lovejoy Fellow, will be honored by the college and will present a lecture on a subject relating to freedom of the press.—*The Colby Alumnus*



SUMMER 1955 | MAN HAD LET LOOSE HELL ON EARTH

The author of this "guest" editorial is Carleton D. Brown, '33, president of the Kennebec Broadcasting Company and a Colby trustee. Mr. Brown was one of two media representatives from the State of Maine who witnessed the explosion of an atomic bomb at the proving grounds of the Atomic Energy Commission, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 5, 1955.

During a few fleeting seconds, I saw light far brighter than the sun—created by a temperature 300,000 centigrade (500 times greater than that of the sun at its surface). At this instant, force was released equal to twice that which destroyed Hiroshima, where, in that horrible moment, 60,000 people died, 30,000 were seriously injured, and 90,000 homes were flattened to the earth. Such power, equivalent to the explosion of 40,000 tons of TNT, cannot be comprehended unless you have felt it. At eight miles distance, had I been standing, I



would have been knocked flat.

The earth quaked, and the heavens were filled with darkness, and all at once it seemed that man had let loose hell itself on earth—frightening, awe-inspiring, indescribable. And then we left, lest there

should fall upon us radioactive particles, which, for hours, could have dealt to all life on the spot where we had stood, a lethal energy which can kill and destroy.

This was an atomic explosion. I pray that never will come a day when hydrogen explosion shall be detonated on this continent. For, if such a day should come, man can release energy millions of times more powerful.

With the positive knowledge that Russia can build A-bombs and H-bombs, and scientific advance now so rapid that some of our fastest aircraft are obsolete; with the guided missile capable of zooming through the stratosphere and across oceans; we no longer can pattern our thinking as Colby people did when they were graduated, even as short a time back as 1952. A new concept of man's responsibility to society and of his inter-relation to men everywhere must be re-evaluated.

—*The Colby Alumnus*

1914



1963



Women students board the Blue Beetle bus on College Avenue for the trip to the Mayflower Hill campus in 1952. Two buses were used to transport students between the two campuses from 1937 until 1952 when the move to the new campus was completed. In photo at right, workers carry boxes of books into Miller Library after trucking them from Memorial Hall on the downtown campus.

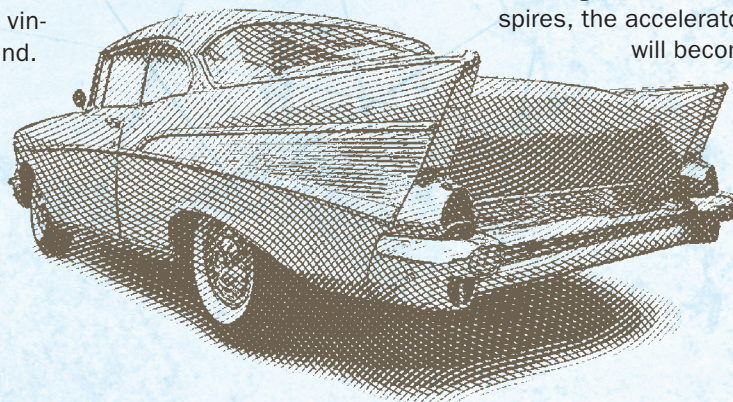
MAY 1956

The complacency of American prosperity

It almost seems as if the American dream had made us into a nation of sleep-walkers. Our prosperity blurs not only the awful needs in foreign lands but also crying gaps and spiritual poverty in the homeland. We are increasingly subjected to the mass propaganda machinery that makes up our minds for us. Our civil liberties are in constant jeopardy. We have revived features of the horrendous Inquisition by penalizing men for their thoughts and their associations. Yes, complacency and conformity set the mood, and it is dangerous.

Our colleges, along with our churches, must vindicate the work of the free and adventurous mind. Our prophets must use the freedom of the pulpit, lest that freedom vanish from disuse. Our sages and our men of learning must practice liberty of utterance in the class-room, or that liberty may silently ooze away.

*The Rev. John W. Brush '20
Commencement Dinner, 1956*



FALL 1958

Expressway will be "shooting across the fields"

A deserted baby carriage and a stack of rubble are all that remain of the Veterans Apartments. The old barracks were removed during the summer and across the vista that has opened up Colby now has a ringside view of construction on the expressway shooting across fields, over fences and cliffs towards the north. Pleasure cars, trucks, and trailers will soon be bursting above earth where junipers and violets used to grow. Seventy miles an hour will be the speed limit, but for a moment, we be-

lieve, as motorists gaze at the striking buildings and spires, the accelerator will idle, the pace will become more leisurely

and the product of man's ingenuity and faith, Colby's new campus, will be richly enjoyed.

—The Colby
Alumnus



Student Strike

Colby students gathered in May 1970 as they took part in a strike protesting the Vietnam War and Kent State killings. The new decade would usher in a period of activism for the nation. In the summer issue of *Colby*, read about the College, 1964-2013.