

The Rotunda Report

2013 Summer Issue

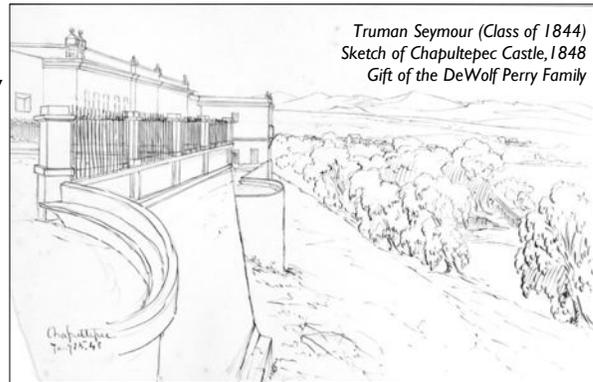
Museum Associates Bi-Annual Newsletter

From the Director's Chair



Dear Sullivan Museum and History Center Supporters and Friends,

The museum continues its progress toward accomplishing several goals this quarter, including acquisition of some wonderful items for the collection, specifically three drawings by Truman Seymour detailing views of Chapultepec, Mexico. Acquisition of items for the collection created by artists who attended Norwich are both rare and special. Rare due to their age, and often they were not meant to be “done for art’s sake” but were created as “the record of the day” or for a specific purpose such as future reference or memory. Although there are certainly pieces by our luminary artists which do meet the criteria of purely for art’s sake, they are not as easily located or acquired. As you journey through the United States you might stumble across a drawing, watercolor or even a painting by Seymour, Boggs or Dodge in a museum, antique prints shop or even an auction. Please let us know if you do; we are building our database for these items, and you extend our sightline in these marvelous finds which one day may even be part of the museum’s permanent collection.



Truman Seymour (Class of 1844)
Sketch of Chapultepec Castle, 1848
Gift of the DeWolf Perry Family



**SULLIVAN MUSEUM
AND HISTORY CENTER**

It is even more exciting to include new acquisitions in our exhibitions, featuring them and the stories they tell to provide insight into the lives of Norwich University graduates over the centuries. And these two centuries are quickly coming to a brilliant peak, where Norwich will be able to shine and share her accomplishments, her stories and her future. As we move ahead with plans for the Bicentennial of the founding of the Academy in 1819, there are so many important milestones to highlight, many which will need accompanying materials to support those stories. We want you to keep in mind a few important thoughts as you go about your daily encounters. The stories of the Norwich family in each decade, each period of her history is important. The items which tell the stories of her heroes, the people who sacrificed in the creation and support of the institution as well as the Country are significant items which can tell that story, sometimes without words. You may be the “keeper” of such fabulous material, please consider sharing it with us, so we can tell those stories during the Bicentennial Anniversary. There are others as well, important milestones marking 40, 50, 100 and 150 year events important in American life and important to the Citizens of the Republic. “Keeper, collector, family treasurer” and all those that maintain Norwich’s history (your history) let us know what you may want to share with us during these “anniversary times” to bring others to those “anniversary places.” Remember too, that not everything is in the best condition for exhibition or does not have a Norwich tie (which is mandatory as per our collections policy), therefore, we ask you to let us guide you through the process of the connection to Norwich’s history and how we can best tell her story for you and let these important milestones be experienced and acknowledged by today’s audiences. Let us hear from you!

Museologically yours,

Sarah E. Henrich
Director

Current Exhibition on Norwich and the Civil War Explores Nineteenth-Century Mourning Rituals

The latest in our series of shows commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War opened in April, and was well-attended during this year's Commencement and Commissioning weekend. Titled "*These Honored Dead: Private and National Commemoration*", this exhibit considers the contributions made by Norwich alumni during the crucial year of 1863.

In early 1863, the outlook for the Union cause looked bleak. The Army of the Potomac had suffered devastating losses at the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. In the west, Union armies could still not break the Confederate hold on the Mississippi River. On the home front, civilians dreaded the ever-growing list of soldiers who would not be coming home. Thousands of soldiers had died from wounds, and even more had succumbed to the ravages of disease. Many more were imprisoned or simply missing, with no marked grave or story for their loved ones.

1863 proved to be a pivotal year, however. Victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg fortified the Union resolve to fight on towards ultimate triumph. Norwich alumni were prominent in these and many other battles. The human cost of these victories forced the nation to reconsider how it dealt with such losses. In the Nineteenth Century, individuals were encouraged to spiritually prepare themselves for death, knowing that their families and friends would preserve their memories. The Civil War expanded this notion of commemoration and shifted it from the private realm to serve a civic purpose.



This exhibition commemorates the contributions of Norwich alumni during the Civil War, particularly during the year 1863. We examine how soldiers entered the service, including the controversial draft. We also focus on the stories of Norwich alumni who were held as prisoners of war. Several of these men boldly escaped. Finally, we consider how soldiers faced the prospect of death. Norwich alumni strove to ensure that their own sacrifices, and those of their comrades, would indeed prove meaningful.



Braided hair watch chain and other mourning jewelry on display

"Round" Exhibit Opens July 22nd

This new exhibit brings together objects based on their circular shape. Ranging from familiar items such as a uniform button to oddities like a foot-powered dentist's drill, the exhibit highlights the variety and breadth of the Sullivan Museum collection. The show will remain on view through the Fall 2013 Semester.



(left to right) Alonzo Jackman's barometer, a hand-made leather Norwich seal, and a Norwich Cadet uniform button from the 1800s.

Save the Date!

Homecoming Weekend
October 4-6, 2013

Museum Associates
Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 6

Spring Lunch N' Learns Prove Popular

During the Spring 2013 Semester, the Sullivan Museum hosted a number of successful lunchtime programs and discussions. Vermont Historical Society curator Jacqueline Calder and Sullivan Museum Associates Vice-President Robert Guptill '68 presented informative talks about artists featured in the "Useful and Elegant Accomplishments" exhibition.

In April, we celebrated the opening of the new Civil War exhibition with a musical performance. Singer Linda Radtke, accompanied by pianist Arthur Zorn, presented a program of Civil War-era songs which held special significance for the State of Vermont. This presentation was sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council.

Also in April, author Robert Plumb presented the Civil War letters of George McClelland of the 155th Pennsylvania Infantry. Excerpts of these letters were read dramatically by Norwich student Emily Flinn and Joseph Laston.



Linda Radtke performs in the Museum Rotunda

The semester concluded with two artistic presentations. Conservator Emily Phillips discussed her ongoing restoration of the William Earle paintings of famous Norwich figures and we welcomed the warm Spring weather with an outdoor landscape drawing workshop facilitated by Norwich art professor Lisa Kippen and Museum Exhibitions Associate Phil Whitman.

Recent Acquisitions

Gifts to President Schneider from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, Thailand

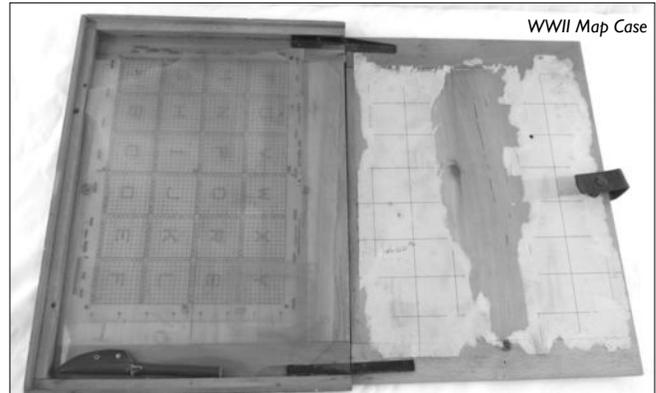
Map Case used in WWII by NU Military Science & Tactics Professor Clayton Wallace Wells, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Theodore R. Nelson, Jr. '57

1966 Norwich University Junior Week Mug, donated by Robert Guptill, '68

Encased First Issue Alden Partridge US Postal Stamp, donated by MG & Mrs. W. Russell Todd, USA (Ret.) '50 & P'75

Nineteenth Century Mourning Jewelry and Accessories

2003 NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship Banner



Objects Sought for Exhibitions and the Museum's Permanent Collection

As part of the Strengthening the Collection initiative, we would like our supporters to consider identifying, loaning or donating items to strengthen the exhibition program and the permanent collection.

Early Norwich objects c.1819-1850, with a direct relation to Alden Partridge and the Norwich, VT campus, instruction or students. Including an early 19th-Century dictionary, such as Webster's, which would have been used in New England.

Uniforms or personal artifacts directly related to Norwich alumni experience during the Vietnam era.

Female cadet uniforms or other objects related to women at Norwich and in the Corps of Cadets

Drawings and paintings by NU alumni artists, including William Brenton Boggs, Truman Seymour, Edgar Parker, and others.

Civil War materials related to NU graduates, such as uniforms, Militaria, drawings, paintings or other images.

Objects relating to Civil War medicine and field hospitals, including surgeon's kits, trephines, and 19th century medical books and charts concerning diphtheria, typhoid, cholera, etc.

Objects relating to health care at Norwich, and the Infirmary/Quarantines. Also, Nursing School uniforms or objects.

Items relating to the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad, particularly those related to Gen. Grenville Dodge, the Union Pacific or drawings of the construction of the railroad.

Sullivan Museum and History Center

Norwich University
158 Harmon Drive
Northfield, VT 05663

(802) 485-2183
www.norwich.edu/museum

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Upcoming Exhibitions

The Sullivan Museum is open 8 - 4pm, Monday-Friday, and 11 - 4pm on Saturdays during the Academic Year

On View Through June 30, 2013

“Useful and Elegant Accomplishments”

An Exhibition of Nineteenth-Century Landscape Drawings

On View Through December 20, 2013

“These Honored Dead: Private and National Commemoration”

The Third in a Series of Exhibits Focusing on Norwich University and the Civil War

July 22-December 20, 2013

“Round”

An Exhibition of Round, Circular and Spherical Objects from the Museum’s Collection

January-December, 2014

Norwich University and the Civil War: 1864

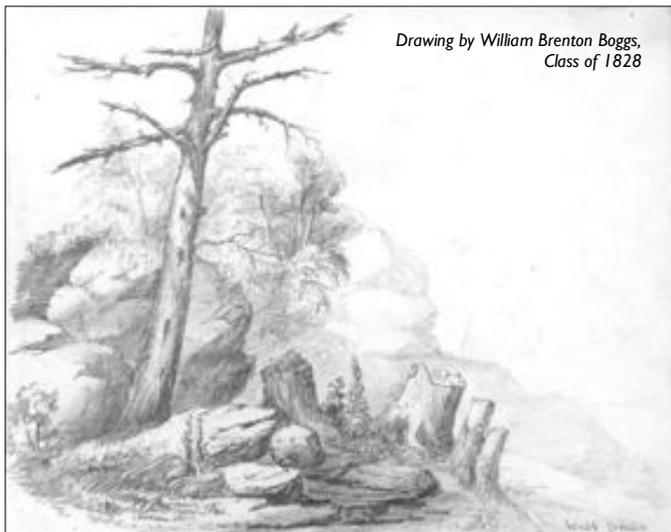
For more information on current exhibitions, and for updates on coming attractions and public programs

Please visit our website and blog:

www.norwich.edu/museum and www.norwich.typepad.com/museum

Sullivan Museum and History Center Mission Statement

The Sullivan Museum and History Center seeks to be a lively, compelling and anchoring presence in our community; to serve as a dynamic resource, to improve cultural and educational opportunities for the Norwich community; to enhance our reputation as a unique institution of higher education; to promote Norwich and the Norwich experience; and to demonstrate who we are in the present through interaction with our past, our community, our beliefs, and the vision we hold for the future.



*Drawing by William Brenton Boggs,
Class of 1828*

Final Weeks!

The exhibition "**Useful and Elegant Accomplishments**" closes on June 30th. If you haven't yet seen this fascinating show of Nineteenth-Century landscape drawings, make sure to visit the Sullivan Museum soon.



The Museum Associates support the museum in conservation projects, Lunch N' Learn Series, book sales and special events. We welcome new members to the Associates to engage in the museum's offerings and volunteer projects. Please consider joining this vital group of supporters with a membership in 2013. Your membership makes these programs possible at the Sullivan Museum and History Center.

SULLIVAN MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

Museum Associates Executive Committee 2013-2014

Patricia Leavenworth
President

Robert Guptill
Vice President

Nancy Braman
Secretary

Lauren Wobby
Treasurer

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Member at Large

Museum Staff

Sarah E. Henrich
Director

Suzanne Desch
Museum Assistant

Candace Truso
Museum Registrar

Phil Whitman
Exhibitions Associate

Sullivan Museum Associate Membership

June 1, 2013– May 31, 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Join Me Up at the Following Level:

_____ \$ 5.00 Student

_____ \$ 500.00 Sponsor

_____ \$ 25.00 Regular

_____ \$ 1000.00 Founder

_____ \$ 100.00 Patron

_____ I wish to give an additional gift amount of \$ _____

_____ To show appreciation to our members we list names in the Museum Associates Newsletter,
Please check if you wish to remain anonymous

_____ Check enclosed

_____ MasterCard

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Please bill my credit card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV _____ (this is the 3-digit code found on the reverse of your card)

Signature Required: _____

Would you like a credit card receipt mailed to you? _____ Yes _____ No

Please return this form along with your payment to:

**Norwich University Development and Alumni Relations
158 Harmon Drive, Northfield, VT 05663**

Sullivan Museum & History Center Updated Donors & Members Listing

This list reflects new members and donors since the publication of our last newsletter.
If your name has been omitted in error please contact us at 802-485-2183.

COL Jack J. Basil, Jr., AUS (Ret.) '46

Dr. Anthony Caprio '60

Harold Colvocoresses

Harry E. Covey '52

Richard & Nancy Cummings '51

COL & Mrs. David G. Doane, M.D., USA (Ret.) '43

Robert & Joan Guptill '68

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Leavenworth '87

Joseph McMahon '80

Gerry H'91 and Jackie Painter '76

MG & Mrs. W. Russell Todd, USA (Ret.)
'50, P'75, H '75 & H '93

David G. Zsido '70



*Participants in our
Landscape Drawing Workshop observe
artist Lisa Kippen's drawing*

*Joseph Laston (left) and
author Robert Plumb during an
April Lunch N' Learn presentation*