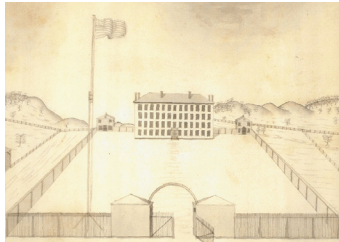


Special thanks to

The Partridge House

Jonathan Frishtick,
GIS GPS Mapping

for their contributions to this project



Early sketch of the American Scientific, Literary and Military Academy's (later Norwich University) South Barracks on the present-day site of the Norwich Green and Marion Cross School.

Cadets during military practice on the Parade Grounds.



After the South Barracks burned and NU moved to Northfield, the North Barracks (left) served as a school and library for the town until it too was destroyed by fire in 1897.

Theta Chi Fraternity was founded at Norwich University on April 10, 1856 by two cadets: Frederick Norton Freeman and Arthur Chase. A marker in commemoration is located at the southwest corner of Norwich Green.

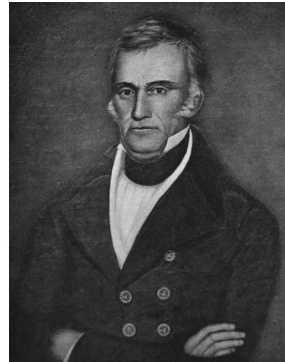


NORWICH
UNIVERSITY™



NORWICH
Historical Society

ALDEN PARTRIDGE

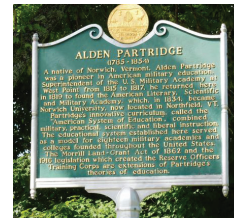


Alden Partridge was born on Bragg Hill in Norwich in 1785. He enrolled at Dartmouth College at age 16, then transferred to the military academy at West Point. There he excelled and became a professor of mathematics and engineering, and eventually, superintendent of the school. It was here that he began to hone a new vision of education which combined civilian and military studies in order to produce *citizen soldiers*, prepared for the responsibilities of peace and war. This brought him into conflict with the military elite and earned him a court-martial and dismissal from West Point.

Partridge returned to Norwich in 1819 and continued his quest to create what would become his American System of Education based his ideals. After receiving support and gifts of land from the town, he founded the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy and built the South Barracks the same year. As enrollment increased, the North Barracks, was erected (1831-32).

Partridge wrote prolifically on mathematical and scientific matters, his travels, and his views on citizen soldiery. He is credited with accurately surveying, with his cadets, the mountains of Vermont. He also served in the Vermont House of Representatives during the 1830s, and was recruited as President of UVM, an honor he declined.

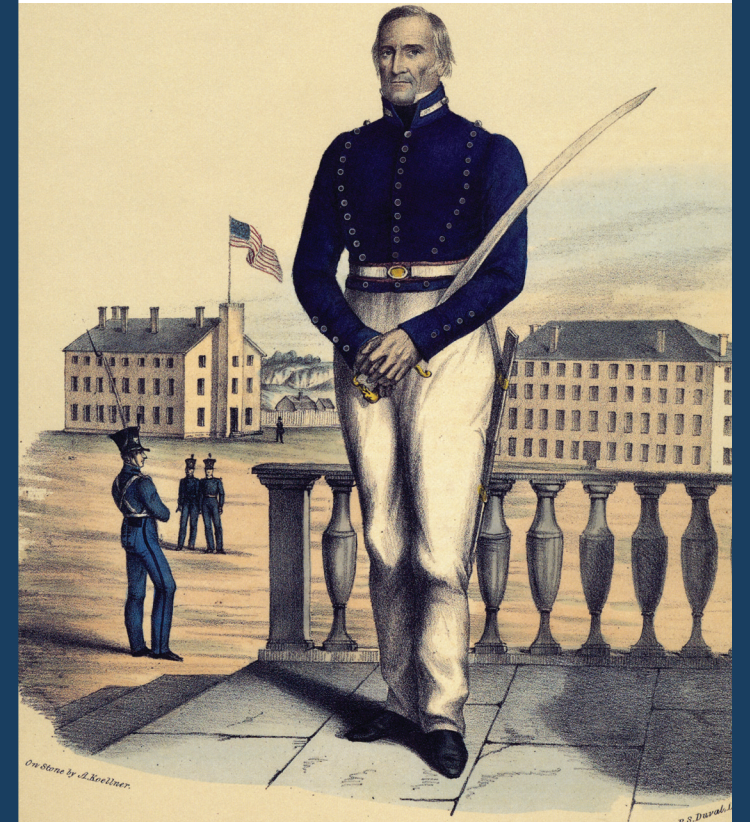
Partridge stepped down as President in 1843. He would go on to found six other military institutions in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Hampshire. Partridge's model was adopted by Senator Justin Morrill for the state universities founded under the Land Grant College Act. Partridge is also generally credited for the present-day ROTC program.



Partridge served as guardian to several children, one of whom was a Greek child refugee, George M. Colvocorresses, who was raised in Norwich and attended the University. In 1837, at the age of 52, Partridge married Anne Swazey of Claremont, NH. They had two sons, George M.C. (1838-1854) and Henry Villiers (1839-1920).

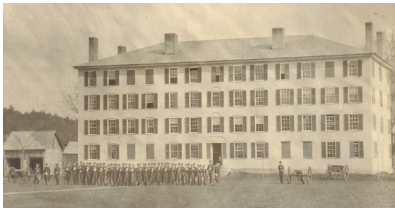
Captain Partridge died in Norwich on January 16, 1854, at age 69. He is buried at Fairview Cemetery along with his wife and sons.

NORWICH UNIVERSITY



A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Stroll Norwich Village to visit the
key sites of Norwich University,
founded here in 1819.



1 Norwich Bandstand
In 1819, Alden Partridge, a Norwich native, founded the *American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy* and built the South Barracks at the site of the current-day elementary school. The building had 42 rooms, 2 recitation rooms, a lecture hall, and an armory. Students enrolled the following year. In 1834 the academy was renamed Norwich University.

2 JBC Burton House (corner of Main and Elm Streets) boarded cadets, as did at least 15 other houses in Norwich. During the 1820s at the Burton house, cadets paid \$1.67 per week or \$86.84 per year for washing and mending of clothing. The cost to board (or eat dinner) was \$2.00 per week in the 1830s. Three brothers, Alwyn, Swinton, and Elias Ball boarded at the Burtons in 1825. They were from Charleson, SC, and attending Norwich University to gain military experience in order to put down potential slave insurrections.

3 Former home of Truman B. Ransom (now the Norwich Post Office)
Truman B. Ransom graduated from Norwich University in 1825 and began a career as an educator, eventually becoming President in 1844, the first to hold the office after Alden Partridge. Ransom served in the Mexican War and was promoted to Colonel. He was fatally shot outside



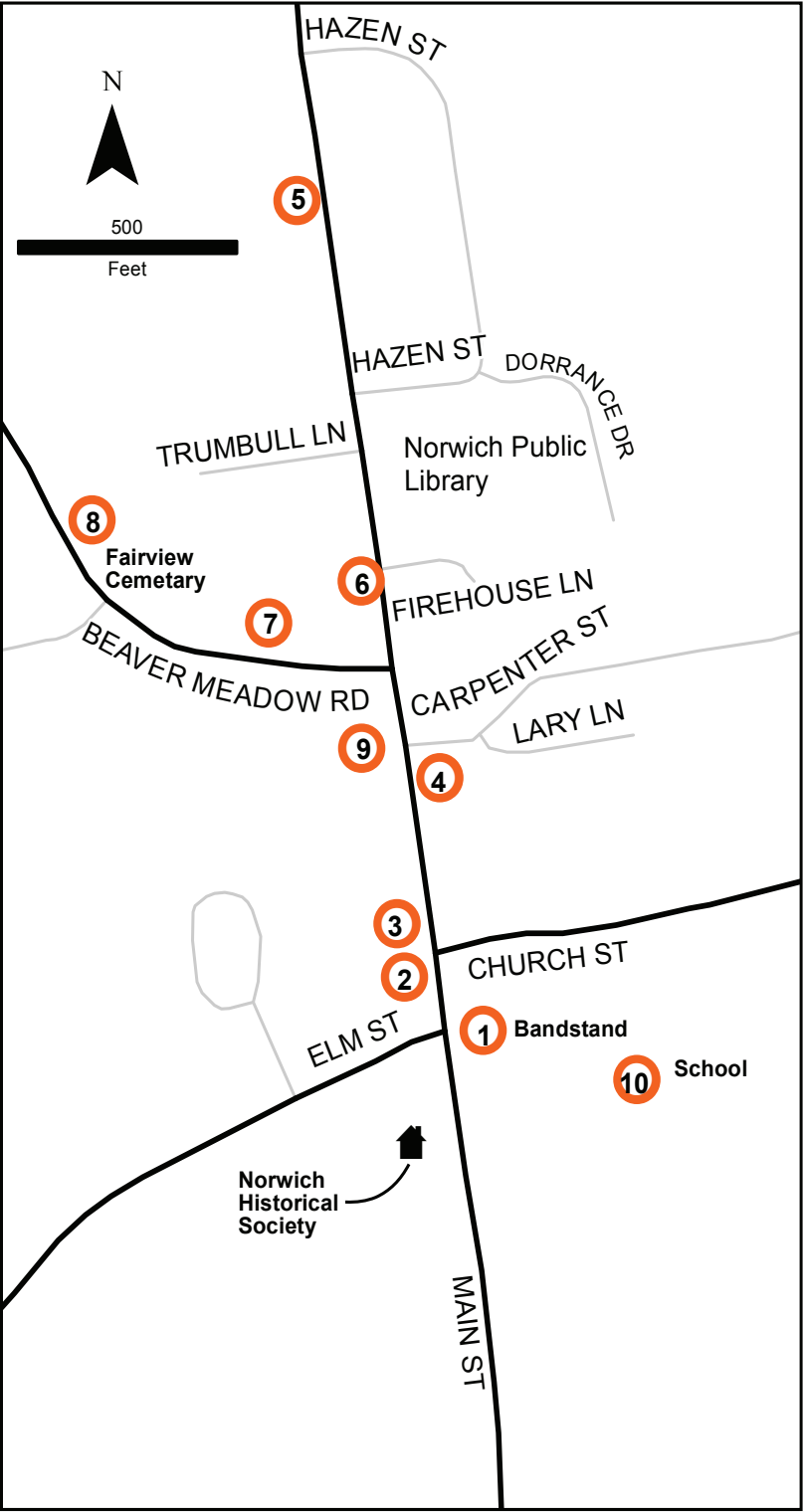
of Mexico City on September 13, 1847. Thousands of people came to his funeral in Norwich.



4 Union Store (Ledyard Bank Building) The Union Store occupied the site from the 1850s to 1864, when the merchant, tailor and Norwich University trustee, Joseph Egerton, purchased it. Egerton was the tailor for many cadets at Norwich University until the institution moved to Northfield in 1866. Store records from the 1830s document students purchasing quills, blank books, quires of paper, inkstands, and ink.



5 The Partridge House
Alden Partridge lived here during his presidency of Norwich University. He often addressed his cadets from the balcony of an earlier entrance portico. The house was built in about 1825 for Partridge's cousin by Norwich builder Joseph Emerson. After his death in 1854 at age 69, his widow remained at this location until her death in 1902. Alden and Anne Partridge and their sons are buried at Fairview Cemetery. Today, the house operates as an Inn. *(See more on back panel.)*



6 Admiral Converse House (351 Main Street)
George Albert Converse attended Norwich University just before the Civil War and then enrolled in the US Naval Academy during the war. He became a battleship commander during the Spanish-American War.



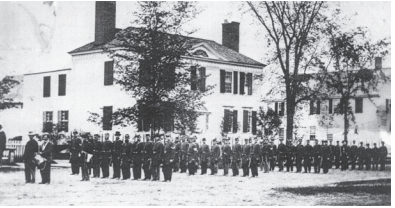
7 Mrs. Dow's Boarding House (The Aldrich House)
In the 1860s, this house was used as a boarding house for Norwich University cadets. One student, Edward Stanley Abbot, wrote "I am to have a nice large parlor and a snug little sleeping room at the enormous sum of half a dollar a week! Board is 2.25 a week."



8 Fairview Cemetery
The gravesites of Alden Partridge and family are located near the center of Fairview Cemetery. A monument was erected by the Colvocorreses family to honor their patron.

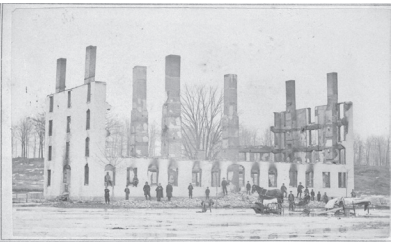
9 Norwich Inn
This military formation, photographed from in front of the Inn, was part of the Vermont State Militia's June training. Militia officers came to Norwich University to train in drill and advanced tactics. They drilled with muskets and six-pound smooth-bore howitzers (cannons). They learned bayonet exercises, construction and fortification techniques, and guard and post duty. Norwich University cadets also trained Dartmouth students

during the Civil War, bringing to a close a long-standing feud between the institutions. On October 19th, 1864, escaped Confederate prisoners of war, disguised as vacationers from Canada, arrived at hotels in Saint Albans where they entered three banks and demanded



money; they stole over \$200,000 (between \$7 and 8 million today). Norwich University cadets traveled to Newport and on to Derby Line in case of additional invasions.

A Norwich cadet said, "While the outing was neither bloody nor protracted, it is not romancing to say that the real war spirit was afire in us."



10 Norwich Green
This view would have greeted you on the morning following the great fire of March 14, 1866, when the South Barracks burned to the ground. The event prompted the University's move to Northfield later that year. A plaque at the entrance commemorates the University and is mounted on bricks saved from the South Barracks.

