

education in Europe where he studied for four years in France, Germany, Spain and Italy. He became a learned student of the French, German and Spanish languages, choosing to work for two terms at several universities in those countries rather than spend the whole period of his post-graduate study at one institution. Upon his return to the U.S. he taught in Indiana, California, Arizona and Nevada, before accepting a position as a major and instructor of modern languages at VMI in 1903. Two years later, upon the death of the department head, he was promoted to colonel and assumed the position of professor of modern languages and continued in this capacity until 1919 when the department was divided into two professorships, one of romance languages and one of German. Colonel Patton was professor of German at the time of his death.

He died on November 8, 1924, in his quarters at VMI.

### Edward Hill Pritchett—1880

Jackson-Hope Medal  
Second Honor

*Teacher—Abstracter*

*Born:* July 30, 1858, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia

*Parents:* John James Pritchett

Anna C. Martin

*Grandparents (Paternal):* Major Jack Pritchett  
Sallie Hill

*Grandparents (Maternal):* Benjamin Martin  
Mary Kent

*Married:* Augusta Evans

*Children:* Mary Alice Pritchett

Evans H. Pritchett

Edward Hill Pritchett matriculated at VMI on July 21, 1877, and was graduated July 4, 1880.

Excepting two years when he was engaged in civil engineering, Pritchett spent the first decade after his VMI graduation as a teacher, the last years at Savoy College in Texas. In 1890 he entered the abstract and law business, later becoming vice president and secretary of the Fanning Abstract Company in Bonham, Texas.

He died June 9, 1925, in Bonham, Texas.

### Alexander Coffee Sloss—1881

Jackson-Hope Medal  
First Honor

*Merchant*

*Born:* December 30, 1861, in St. Louis, Missouri

*Parents:* James L. Sloss

Arabella Blood

*Grandparents (Paternal):* James Long Sloss  
Letitia Vandike Campbell

*Grandparents (Maternal):* Captain Sullivan Blood  
Sophia Hall

*Married:* Katherine Horton

*Children:* Louise Sloss

Alexander C. Sloss, Jr.

rs in France, Germany,  
he French, German and  
s at several universities  
iod of his post-graduate  
S. he taught in Indiana,  
a position as a major  
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VMI.

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Second Honor

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Jackson-Hope Medal  
First Honor

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Alexander Coffee Sloss matriculated at VMI on September 28, 1878. He was graduated on June 30, 1881. He was a lieutenant in the Corps of Cadets.

Upon graduation he entered his father's cotton business in St. Louis, Missouri, and was vice president after his father's death in 1882. When that business was closed in 1895, he entered the Bauer Wholesale Grocer Company as secretary and treasurer. With this firm's subsequent liquidation in 1898, he moved to Mexico where, after investigating coffee plant- ing, he formed a stock company and purchased land, becoming exporter and manager of the Tacahuite Land and Planting Company. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order. He retired in 1936 and moved to Tryon, North Carolina.

Mr. Sloss died October 23, 1944, in Tryon, from shock as a result of a broken hip suffered in a fall.

William Jennings Crocker—1881  
Civil Engineer

Jackson-Hope Medal  
Second Honor

*Born:* July 7, 1860, in Currituck County, North Carolina  
*Parents:* The Reverend William A. Crocker  
Frances Keaton Jennings  
*Grandparents (Paternal):* Captain William Crocker  
Frances Hill Woodley  
*Grandparents (Maternal):* Thomas Jennings  
Frances Keaton  
*Married:* Nellie Williams  
*Children:* Margaret Crocker  
William J. Crocker, Jr.

William Jennings Crocker matriculated at VMI July 26, 1877. He was graduated June 30, 1881. He was a lieutenant in the Corps of Cadets.

After leaving VMI, Mr. Crocker was a civil engineer, 1881-83, and school teacher, 1883-91, before joining the bridge and building department of the Texas & Pacific Railway Company with whom he worked for almost thirty years. He was chief engineer of a Texas & Pacific short line road when he went to California on a visit in 1919 and decided to stay. Re- signing his railroad position, he bought a small fruit ranch at Modesto, California, where he farmed until his death.

He died September 28, 1928, in Modesto, California.

William Franklin Dennis—1882  
Civil Engineer

Jackson-Hope Medal  
First Honor

*Born:* May 29, 1861, at Petersburg, Virginia  
*Parents:* John William Dennis  
Mary Josephine Horan  
*Married:* Clara Coleman Rosser

William Frankin Dennis matriculated at VMI on July 22, 1879. He was graduated on June 30, 1882, with a bachelor of science degree.