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OF THE CINCINNATI

The Jackson-Hope  
and  
The Society of the Cincinnati  
Medals  
of the  
Virginia Military Institute

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
OF ALL  
RECIPIENTS  
1877 - 1977

BY  
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The history of the Virginia Military Institute has been recorded by several authors. The definitive work covering the first century of the college's operations was also compiled by Colonel William Couper. His *One Hundred Years at V.M.I.* contains the best account of the story of the Jackson-Hope medals and that account is reproduced here with the permission of his son, Dr. John Lee Couper, Class of 1937.

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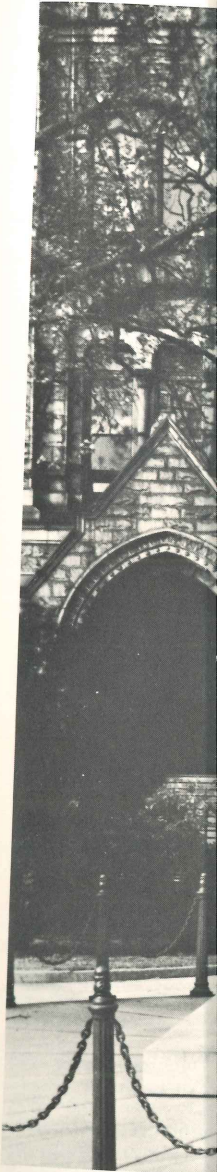
### THE JACKSON-HOPE MEDALS

A few months after Jackson's death, a group of English gentlemen formed an association to erect a monument to his memory. They started work in the summer of 1863 and soon a fund of about four thousand guineas had been subscribed — a fund sufficient to enable them to award the commission to the foremost sculptor of Great Britain, John Henry Foley.

Foley made a model which was cast in plaster, but the fall of the Confederacy caused it to be put aside and the sculptor devoted his attention to an equestrian statue of Sir James Outram, formerly Governor General of India, for the Indian government. Later he made a colossal statue of the Prince Consort, which was placed in the Albert Memorial at Kensington after his death.

The English gentlemen hesitated to press the work because of the status of diplomatic relations between the United States and Great Britain, but the matter was again taken up when a movement was started to place a statue of Jackson in Lexington. Some people favored Winchester. The Association of the Army of Northern Virginia, of which General Fitzhugh Lee was president, offered to be the medium of presentation and favored Richmond for its location. General Bradley T. Johnson, who was going abroad was delegated by the association to confer with Mr. Beresford-Hope, who had handled the arrangements for the English association, and together they visited Mr. Foley's studio, in Great Osnaburgh Street, London. There it was found that the head had been based upon a photograph of Jackson made in 1849; there was no resemblance to the Jackson of the sixties; and many historical details were incorrect. Immediate steps were taken to secure through George L. Christian, in Richmond, copies of the photographs of Jackson made during the war and these, together with Virginia buttons, sword-buckles, etc., were soon forthcoming, and the statue was remodeled.

Soon after the election of Governor Kemper and just before Foley's death the Association of the Army of Northern Virginia informed Mr. Beresford-Hope that his associates could disregard any misgivings they had entertained about presenting the statue to the State of Virginia, from reasons of delicacy, as the political relationships had changed materially and the people of the State had just elected as their Governor a former Confederate soldier and general officer. And so the statue, which was completed in the summer of 1874, was sent to Richmond, where it



Statue of Li



was met by an admiring throng of soldiers and citizens who drew it with their own hands to the Capitol grounds.<sup>1</sup>

In attending the unveiling of this statue the corps travelled by stage-coach to Goshen, where they entrained for Richmond. There the cadets were quartered in the Arlington Insurance Company's building, which stood on the site of the present State-Planters Bank and Trust Company's building. There was an elaborate parade in which the cadets of the V.M.I. had a prominent part and the chief marshal was General Joseph E. Johnston. About thirty thousand people had gathered at the Capitol Square when the procession arrived at about one o'clock and the unveiling ceremonies started. Following an invocation by Bishop Doggett, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Governor Kemper made a few remarks and introduced the orator of the day, the Reverend Moses D. Hoge.<sup>2</sup> Following the address the statue was unveiled as the infantry fired a salute and the artillery stationed on opposite sides of the Capitol took up the salute by firing salvos alternately — all of which was followed by the rendition of Martin Luther's great hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," sung by massed singing organizations,<sup>3</sup> accompanied by three bands. The ceremonies closed with a reception to the old soldiers, when the Governor escorted Mrs. Jackson and her daughter to the statue.

The corps of cadets has attended the unveiling of three other statues of Stonewall Jackson since that time, but the Foley statue has a continuing interest. Let us pause a few minutes and find out how this came to pass.

The highest academic awards at the Virginia Military Institute are the Jackson-Hope Medals. They are presented each year during the graduation exercises and the speaker who makes the awards on behalf of the Institute expounds, in the three to five minutes allotted to him, some part of the story of these historic golden symbols — symbols which the vast majority, literally so, of V.M.I. men never see or touch. Consequently, for the benefit of these, and others who may be interested, the history of these medals and the evolution of the method of making these awards for brilliant and continuous effort, is here recorded in more extended form than the time limitation of the speakers permits.<sup>4</sup>

The conception of the idea of these medals was that of James Lawson Kemper, a veteran of the Mexican War who was later president of the V.M.I. board of visitors. He served throughout the Civil War, commanding a regiment at First Manassas; was desperately wounded while lead-

<sup>1</sup>Foley died August 27, 1874, aged fifty-six, soon after the Jackson statue was completed. Mr. Beresford-Hope formally tendered the statue to Virginia on March 2, 1873 (a copy of the letter will be found in the *Confederate Scrap Book*, p. 130), but the statue was held in England in order that it might be exhibited at the annual exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts, which closed about the beginning of August in 1875. It was customary to exhibit the works of a deceased academician at the next following exhibition. His statue of Stonewall Jackson was unveiled in Richmond on October 26, 1875.

<sup>2</sup>The address, while interesting, told little of Jackson.

<sup>3</sup>The singing was led by Gesang Verein of Virginia, and contemporary accounts used the German name of the hymn, "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott."

<sup>4</sup>From a paper presented to the academic board on November 11, 1934, by Colonel Couper.

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"General F. H. Smith, Superintendent

"General: The British Parliament fo representative of the the statue of Thomas of £243 16s. 1d., beir foundation of a furth

"By authority of I now dedicate this fu and inviolable capital in procuring two prize Jackson-Hope Medal' and to be bestowed a distinguished graduat of their distinction. prescribed, that two-t invested in the 'first' event of equality of distribution of the me

"It is deemed mo institution of learning long and conspicuous

<sup>5</sup>The body of General Richmond by the corps General Pickett died in temporarily in a vault. statue of Stonewall Jac railroad station to the cem



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ing one of Pickett's Brigades,<sup>5</sup> every regiment of which was commanded  
by a V.M.I. man, at Gettysburg; and when Richmond was evacuated, he  
was in command of the forces left to protect the city. In 1873 he was  
elected Governor of Virginia.

Mention of these medals first appears in the written records in the  
form of a letter from Governor Kemper dated April 28, 1876. This letter  
is not extant so far as we know, but the answer is, and the answer in-  
dicates the content of the lost letter. Before the Governor drafted his final  
letter, the following questions were discussed: How many medals should  
be given? If more than one, should they have different values? Who  
should present the medals? In what securities should the funds be invested?

On May 9, 1876, Governor Kemper wrote to the superintendent of  
V.M.I. and transmitted, on the authority of the donors, the sum of  
\$1,344.54, it being the balance left over from a fund subscribed by  
Englishmen for the erection of a statue of Stonewall Jackson in Richmond.  
The income was until 1935 used to strike off two medals each year and  
they have been presented to the cadets who have been adjudged the first  
and second stand men in each class. The complete letter reads:

"Commonwealth of Virginia,  
"Governor's Office,  
"Richmond, 9th May, 1876.

"General F. H. Smith,

"Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute:

"General: The Honorable A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, member of the  
British Parliament for the University of Cambridge, England, acting as  
representative of the association which presented to this Commonwealth  
the statue of Thomas J. Jackson, by Foley, has transmitted to me the sum  
of £243 16s. 1d., being a surplus of the statue fund, to be invested as the  
foundation of a further memorial of that great Confederate soldier.

"By authority of the honored donors, and in execution of their wishes,  
I now dedicate this fund to be invested and perpetuated as an inalienable  
and inviolable capital, the annual income from which shall be expended  
in procuring two prizes of gold, to be engraved and designed as 'The First  
Jackson-Hope Medal' and 'The Second Jackson-Hope Medal,' respectively,  
and to be bestowed annually, as rewards of merit, upon the two most  
distinguished graduates of the Virginia Military Institute, in the order  
of their distinction. And by the same authority, it is hereby further  
prescribed, that two-thirds of the annual proceeds of the fund shall be  
invested in the 'first' medal, and the residue in the 'second,' and in the  
event of equality of merit and distinction among such graduates, the  
distribution of the medals shall be determined by lot.

"It is deemed most becoming that this fund shall be dedicated to the  
institution of learning which Jackson, as instructor and disciplinarian, so  
long and conspicuously adorned, his official connection with which was

<sup>5</sup>The body of General Pickett was escorted to the grave in Hollywood Cemetery,  
Richmond by the corps of cadets, which happened to be in Richmond at the time.  
General Pickett died in Norfolk July 30, 1875, aged fifty years, and was buried  
temporarily in a vault. He was buried on October 25, 1875, the day before the  
statue of Stonewall Jackson was unveiled and the body was escorted from the  
railroad station to the cemetery.



severed only by his illustrious death; and it is equally appropriate that its designation shall forever associate the munificence of his English admirers with his imperishable name. May Almighty God bless this gift to the prosperity and usefulness of the Virginia Military Institute through all time to come. May its influence so arouse the genius and fire the patriotism of its ingenuous and emulous youth, that future Stonewall Jacksons shall not be wanting to illustrate the annals of this Commonwealth.

"If, as reasonably expected, the General Assembly shall authorize the investment of this fund upon the footing of the debts due from the Commonwealth to incorporate institutions of learning and shall guard and perpetuate it with proper sanctions of law, it will suffice to procure annual medals of the value of \$100 and \$50, respectively, in gold.

"I have disposed of the sterling draft, in which the fund was transmitted from England, for \$1,344.54 of United States currency, and the proceeds constitute a special deposit in the State Bank of Virginia, bearing interest at the rate of six per centum per annum from the fourteenth day of April, 1876.

"Confidently trusting that it will be the pleasure of the proper authorities of the institute to accept this donation, upon the conditions indicated, and congratulating them upon an event so pleasing and auspicious, I have the honor to be,

"Very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"(Signed) JAMES L. KEMPER."

This letter was received on May 12th and was immediately referred to the faculty. That same day the letter was published to the corps of cadets in General Order No. 15, and the superintendent wrote the Governor that the faculty appreciated the honor and he went on to say, "I am also instructed to inform you that the Faculty gratefully accepts this gift on behalf of the Institute, upon the conditions prescribed, and will do all in its power to carry out the instructions of the liberal donors, and to so train every class, that in each shall be found those upon whom may worthily be conferred the honor of the Jackson-Hope medals."<sup>6</sup>

On June 9, 1876, the records of the academic board probably refer to these medals by inference, for a detailed method of arriving at the relative standing of the members of the graduating class was prescribed.

In his annual report, dated June 20, 1876, to the board of visitors, the superintendent referred to the medals and the recommendation of the academic board concerning them. This recommendation is not recorded in the minutes but it had to do with "the style of the medals to be awarded under this donation, as shown by the accompanying design and inscription." Incidentally the suggested inscription, placed on the obverse of the medals, *In pace decus, in bello praesidium*, was, at the superintendent's suggestion, formally adopted, on June 28, 1876, by the board of visitors as the motto of the institution.

<sup>6</sup>Some of the correspondence referred to herein will be found in Journal House of Delegates, 1867-77, pp. 5 to 10. The investment of the funds is covered by Acts of Assembly of 1876-77, pages 39-40.

It is interesting to note that these medals were taken from the minutes of the General Assembly and appear in the minutes of the General Assembly forth hereinafter.

In the minutes of the General Assembly of 1876, that Governor Kemper's recommendation the same it was ordered:

"That the Superintendent of the model of the medals be prepared, and the same was such as was recommended."

This had reference to a letter of June 29th commencing having his name appear in the minutes dated July 5th that the Governor had "English Gentlemen" and "saves Mr. Hope from an objection" to retain his name as he was. On August 18th the Governor's objections "to the style of the medals" the superintendent wrote that he had presented the General Assembly in the minutes.

The memorial was presented to the visitors approved the same and presentation of a Bill in the annual message of the General Assembly medals."

This bill was enacted and authorized and directed the Governor to outstanding State bonds and affairs of the State were dropped so low that the medals were a part of the general Merchants National Bank of the Jackson-Hope fund, with the Governor's name.

The report of the Superintendent of the Jackson-Hope medals in the minutes of the General Assembly recording the list of graduates to be conferred upon Cadets, however, has always been recorded.

The use of the name in Governor Kemper's annual report dated May 2nd, so indicating the name is appropriate. "The medals, this would depend upon whether or not know any safer in the Rockbridge." The faculty of the General Assembly medals for there was no other name.

<sup>7</sup>Mr. Hope died October 1876, and the surname Beresford-Hope was adopted.

It is equally appropriate that munificence of his English Almighty God bless this gift to the Military Institute through the genius and fire the youth, that future Stonewall the annals of this Common-

ral Assembly shall authorize of the debts due from the of learning and shall guard law, it will suffice to procure \$50, respectively, in gold.

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It is interesting to note that all action taken in connection with these medals was taken by the academic board. No mention of the matter appears in the minutes of the board of visitors for some time as is set forth hereinafter.

In the minutes of the academic board, dated July 4, 1876, it is stated that Governor Kemper's letter was presented "and after consideration of the same it was ordered:

"That the Superintendent communicate to the Governor a copy of the model of the medals agreed upon, in the hope that the Legend upon the same was such as would remove the scruples of Mr. Hope."

This had reference to a point raised by Governor Kemper in his letter of June 29th concerning the delicate sensibilities of Mr. Hope in having his name appear on the medals. It was pointed out in the reply dated July 5th that the legend shown on the design was "The Gift of English Gentlemen" and the superintendent went on to say, "This legend saves Mr. Hope from any self laudation," but it was considered proper to retain his name as he was the representative of these English gentlemen. On August 18th the Governor wrote that Mr. Hope had withdrawn his objections "to the style of the medals" and two days later the superintendent wrote that he would prepare a memorial to be presented to the General Assembly in harmony with the plan outlined by the Governor.<sup>7</sup>

The memorial was prepared and on January 18, 1877, the board of visitors approved the superintendent's "action in causing the preparation and presentation of a Bill to the legislature covering the points presented in the annual message of the Governor in regard to the Jackson-Hope medals."

This bill was enacted February 6, 1877. It referred to the donation, and authorized and directed the Governor to convert the medal fund into outstanding State bonds. The money was so invested until the fiscal affairs of the State were reorganized in 1928, and the rate of interest was dropped so low that the fund was reinvested. At present the securities are a part of the general investment fund administered by the First and Merchants National Bank, Trust Department, and the amount of the Jackson-Hope fund, with its increases as of June 30, 1934, was \$4,982.28.

The report of the board of visitors to the Governor in 1878 refers to the Jackson-Hope medals by name but they are not referred to, as such, in the minutes of the board of visitors until July 1, 1880, when after recording the list of graduates it is stated "that the 1st Jackson-Hope medal be conferred upon Cadet . . . ." etc. The list of graduates by stand, however, has always been recorded.

The use of the name "Jackson-Hope Medal" was probably suggested in Governor Kemper's letter of April 28, 1876. The reply to this letter, dated May 2nd, so indicates and it goes on to say why the use of Jackson's name is appropriate. "With regard to the question of having one or two medals, this would depend upon the annual income from the fund. I do not know any safer investment than the County bonds of the County of Rockbridge." The faculty was of the opinion that there should be two medals for there was usually one man in each class so much better than

<sup>7</sup>Mr. Hope died October 20, 1887, aged sixty-seven years. After 1854 he used the surname Beresford-Hope.



the rest that he had to make but little effort and the second medal gave the man who had to work some reward; on the other hand, if there were two brilliant men then both could share the honor but it gave a choice between them. There was reason to believe that a kind friend in Baltimore, who had heard of the Jackson-Hope medal proposition, would provide for the third, fourth, and fifth distinguished graduates.

The reply made on May 6th to the Governor's letter of the 3rd agreed that the first medal should be of more value than the second. It even suggested a third medal — the three to have values of \$100, \$60, and \$40, respectively, and it went on to say, "You will note that five in each class are distinguished here, the same as at West Point." This letter also agreed that it would be best to invest the funds in bonds of the State of Virginia.

The last letter written to the Governor before he drafted his letter of May 9th is dated the 8th and it suggested that the medals be awarded by the Governor. If the Governor could come to Lexington, well and good; otherwise the recipients would be ordered to Richmond and there receive the medals from the Governor. This letter pointed out that Jackson's chair had been divided among three professors — Ship (artillery and gunnery); Brooke (astronomy); and Blair (mechanics and optics).

For eleven years it was a simple matter to comply with the suggested conditions for all cadets took the same course of study. With the class of 1888 the men taking the chemistry course began to pursue subjects differing from those taking the engineering course; with the class of 1898 the men taking the engineering course were further sub-divided as between those in the civil engineering course and those in the electrical engineering course; with the class of 1915 another course was added — the liberal arts course — and in the fulness of time the chemistry course was sub-divided to take care of the men who propose to follow the profession of medicine. This latter option in time became so different from the course followed by the regular chemistry students that with the class of 1933 it was found necessary to include a separate synopsis in the catalogue for this particular course.

With increased specialization in the courses the difficulty of determining which cadets were "the *two* most distinguished graduates" presented a problem which could not be solved equitably — the courses were not comparable. Specific examples of the difficulties encountered in awarding the medals based upon work which was not comparative were presented by Colonel S. W. Anderson, who for many years compiled the data used in making the awards. Regulations were evolved, governing the determination of these medalists, which reached back to that time in a cadet's career when he took some subject in common with a competitor and this, of necessity, pertained to the work done in the two lower classes. This system proved unsatisfactory since comparative merit should be based upon work which is done throughout the entire period of cadetship. Furthermore, the academic board was convinced that emphasis should be placed on work done in the more advanced classes rather than the reverse, but it was impossible to make such a comparison because there are men in the first, or senior, class who study simultaneously only seven per cent of their work, having academic value, in common with their classmates who have elected to pursue another course.

In the meantime numerous recommendations and yet adhere to the medals had been established. It was recommended that some other action be taken. This was disapproved by the Governor. On April 3, 1926, the academy decided that no medals be awarded, one for each class. No action was taken. A committee concerning the curriculum was organized on October 23, 1930, that a new set of Hope medals be adopted, and on December 12, 1930, by the academy.

As things worked out the approval of the various departments changed and beginning with the class of 1931.

"That the number of four; that one of these graduates in each of the four departments — Engineering, Chemistry and Physics, and Mathematics — average; that in case there was a tie between two of the four departments, the department or departments having the higher average should receive the medal."

In practice

As one translation of the medals, the more they were awarded, the more they were awarded. Couper, effective with the medals, until graduation of the class of 1943. Medals were awarded to the most proficient, if Distinguished Graduate stars, in each of the four departments — electrical engineering, and chemistry. It was decided to discontinue awarding the medals to the former custom — two most distinguished graduates in each of the four departments of 1943, the last to be given because of unsettled conditions. It was also the last class to be given the medals.

The spring and summer of 1943. The Corps of Cadets volunteered for armed services. To fill the ranks, which permitted selected students to attend at various institutions, was authorized. The Class of 1943. The enrollment of 761 during the year. Combined VMI and ASTP cadets.

<sup>8</sup>Motto of the Virginia Military Institute: June 28, 1876.

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In the meantime numerous attempts were made to rectify the conditions and yet adhere to the general intent of the provisions under which the medals had been established. On January 5, 1923 the academic board recommended that some other method of awarding these medals be devised. This was disapproved by the board of visitors on January 20, 1923. On April 3, 1926, the academic board recommended that four Jackson-Hope medals be awarded, one for the highest standing cadet in each course, but no action was taken. A committee appointed to report on matters concerning the curriculum and other academic questions recommended on October 23, 1930, that a more equitable method of awarding the Jackson-Hope medals be adopted, and the academic board discussed the question on December 12, 1930, but again without action.

As things worked out the method of making the awards was, with the approval of the various boards and of the Governor of the State, changed and beginning with June, 1935, it was decreed:

"That the number of Jackson-Hope medals be increased from two to four; that one of these four medals be awarded to that distinguished graduate in each of the four departments, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry and Liberal Arts, who attains the highest general average; that in case there be no distinguished graduate in one or more of the four departments, no medals will be awarded that year in such department or departments."

*In pace decus, in bello praesidium.*<sup>8</sup>

\* \* \*

As one translation of the French saying goes, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." As previously noted by Colonel Couper, effective with the Class of 1935, and for a period of nine years until graduation of the Class of 1943 on May 22, 1943, Jackson-Hope Medals were awarded to the cadet achieving the highest academic proficiency, if Distinguished in General Merit or eligible to wear academic stars, in each of the four degree courses — chemistry, civil engineering, electrical engineering, and liberal arts. In 1942 the Board of Visitors decided to discontinue awarding four Jackson-Hope Medals and to return to the former custom—two medals to be awarded to the first and second most distinguished graduates of each following class. Therefore the Class of 1943, the last to be graduated on a normal schedule for seven years because of unsettled conditions during and following World War II, was also the last class to be awarded four Jackson-Hope Medals.

The spring and summer of 1943 saw many changes at the Institute. The Corps of Cadets volunteered almost en masse for active duty in the armed services. To fill this void, the Army Specialized Training Program which permitted selected enlisted personnel to pursue academic study at various institutions, was begun at VMI on May 10, just before graduation of the Class of 1943. For example, from a Corps of Cadets with a total enrollment of 761 during the 1942-1943 session, the strength of the combined VMI and ASTP cadets was as follows in the next two years:

<sup>8</sup>Motto of the Virginia Military Institute adopted by the Board of Visitors, June 28, 1876.



	VMI Cadets	ASTP Cadets
October 19, 1944 - February 17, 1945	207	698
February 19, 1945 - June 9, 1945	175	348
July 9, 1945 - October 31, 1945	293	388
November 1, 1945 - March 2, 1946	257	95

An accelerated semester recitation program for VMI cadets changed the normal graduation dates. The Institute was operated almost continuously from September 1942 until June 1946. Two and three VMI cadet classes were often matriculated in a calendar year. ASTP graduation occurred at the end of twelve-week cycles; no ASTP cadets qualified for either medal. The entrance and graduation dates of those VMI classes most affected by World War II are as follows:

Class of	Matriculation Dates of	Graduation	Number of VMI Graduates	Jackson- Hope Medals Awarded
1944	September 9, 1940	February 5, 1944	16	2
1945	September 8, 1941	July 29, 1944	2	0
1946	September 14, 1942	June 9, 1945	2	2
1947	June 9, 1943	March 2, 1946	8	2
1948-A	February 7, 1944	February 1, 1947	135	2
1948-B	June 28, 1944	June 11, 1947		
1949-A	February 19, 1945	June 8, 1948	211	2
1949-B	July 11, 1945	January 29, 1949		
1949-C	November 1, 1945	June 14, 1949		
1950-A	March 4, 1946	January 28, 1950	199	2
1950-B	September 9, 1946	June 13, 1950		

During this decade of war and readjustment, the Jackson-Hope medals were awarded as conditions and size of classes warranted. Graduates of the Class of 1945 received no Jackson-Hope medals. The Class of 1946 and each class thereafter to this day have been awarded two Jackson-Hope medals, first and second honor. This practice was a return to the pre-1935 selection of the two most academically distinguished cadets in each class. For the Classes of 1944 through 1947, the practice was dictated by the small number of graduates in each class. Even though class sizes increased as war veterans returned, the Committee of Courses of Instruction and Degrees of the Academic Board in a report dated November 1, 1946, recommended as follows:

"3. Awards of Medals. As there are now seven classes in school the question of awarding medals was discussed. It was recommended that because of inability to select the highest stand men (due to lack of competition, etc.) that medals be not awarded to all classes. It was recommended, however, that medals be awarded for the class of 1950-B.

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	VMI Cadets	ASTP Cadets
45	207	698
	175	348
	293	388
	257	95

program for VMI cadets changed. The program was operated almost continuously. Two and three VMI cadet classes graduated each year. ASTP graduation occurred annually. ASTP cadets qualified for either the VMI or the ASTP classes most of the time.

	Number of VMI Graduates	Jackson- Hope Medals Awarded
Class of 1944	16	2
Class of 1944	2	0
Class of 1945	2	2
Class of 1946	8	2
Class of 1947	135	2
Class of 1948	211	2
Class of 1949	199	2
Class of 1950	199	2

adjustment, the Jackson-Hope medals were awarded to the highest standing graduates of each class. The Class of 1946 and the Class of 1947 were awarded two Jackson-Hope medals. The practice was a return to the pre-1935 practice of awarding two Jackson-Hope medals to the highest standing graduates in each class. Even though class sizes increased, the practice was dictated by the limited number of Courses of Instruction and the limited number of medals. On November 1, 1946, recom-

mendations were now seven classes in school. It was recommended that the highest standing graduates be awarded the medals. However, that medals be awarded to the highest standing graduates of each class.

"For class of 1948-A and 1948-B it was recommended that the Jackson-Hope Medals be not awarded. (Actually, the Jackson-Hope medals were ultimately awarded to graduates of the Class of 1948-B.) As to the Cincinnati Medal, it was recommended that it be awarded in June 1947 to a cadet from either the class of 1948-A or 1948-B."

On June 21, 1949, "following a discussion of the dissimilarity of degree courses and the small quantity of work common to all courses a motion was passed directing that a committee be appointed to study the basis of award of Jackson-Hope Medals and submit recommendations to the Academic Board." That same day the Board noted it had previously approved the awards for the Classes of 1948 and 1949.

At the meeting of the Academic Board on May 1, 1950, the recommendations of the committee were adopted as follows: "That, beginning with the Class of 1951, weighted averages be taken for all distinguished men graduating and the highest be awarded the first Jackson-Hope Medal and the next highest awarded the second Jackson-Hope Medal."

And so it was just before the beginning of the Korean conflict, during which there were no major academic program disruptions, and seventy-three years after the award of the first and second honor medals that the authorities returned to the original method of selection. In effect, the Board abandoned the 1935-1943 practice of awarding medals to the first stand distinguished graduates of the chemistry, civil and electrical engineering, and liberal arts curricula. And well did the Board act. Within the next decade and a half there would evolve a total of ten degree curricula at VMI.

#### THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI MEDAL

The Society of the Cincinnati was organized in 1783 to perpetuate the remembrance of the American Revolution, to foster friendships formed by officers of the Continental Army and, as stated in its founding principles, "to promote and cherish, between the respective States, that union and national honor so essentially necessary to the happiness and future dignity of the American Empire." The founders wished to keep alive the memories which resulted from eight years of war. The founders also wished that the Society would survive beyond their own individual spans of life and decided that upon death of a member the eldest son, or the other next male heir, should succeed the member. General George Washington accepted the offer to head the new organization and he became the first President General, a post he held until the end of his life. It was fitting that General Washington should head the new organization. Had not Lord Byron written of him: "There is but one, the first, the last, the Cincinnati of the West, the glorious Washington?"

In good time after the victory at Yorktown, the officers who were encamped in log huts with the Continental Army in its last cantonment on the Hudson River near present-day New Windsor returned to their homes and established branches in their own States. The Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia was organized on Monday, October 6, 1783, in Fredericksburg.