

Today in Math History...

-26 October 1818

Major Thayer and the Military Academy's academic board are anxious to have a knowledge of English grammar added to the entrance requirements.



*A native of Braintree, Massachusetts, Thayer attended Dartmouth for three years, then entered West Point, graduating in 1808. After coastal fortification service and participation in the War of 1812, he spent two years in Europe studying military institutions. He became **Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy** in 1817. Backed by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, Thayer overhauled the academic and disciplinary systems. His reforms included organizing the corps of cadets into a battalion, establishing an academic board to oversee curricular matters, dividing classes into sections according to merit, and holding semiannual examinations. Upon retirement, he established an engineering school at Dartmouth.*