

Today in Math History...

-22 September 1813

Andrew Ellicott to General Swift. Acknowledges receipt of his appointment as professor of mathematics at USMA.



*During his seven years at the Academy, Ellicott occupied a yellow frame house just south of the mess hall. He was a jolly man with a kind face and always had plenty of jokes and stories for the cadets. His nickname was “Old Infinite Series” which he obtained by frequently asking his students to perform **algebraic sums** and to define an **infinite series**.*

*During Ellicott’s tenure **descriptive geometry** instruction was introduced (1817), using the blackboard freely. **Calculus** was first studied at West Point 1817-1818.*