

Albert E. Church (1807 – 1878)

Albert E. Church was born in the town of Salisbury, Connecticut, on December 16, 1807, the son of Samuel Church, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. Samuel Church hoped his son would follow his example and complete Yale with a law degree. But in 1824 Albert Church was invited to West Point by John C. Calhoun, the Secretary of War and an associate of Albert's father from Yale. Albert Church attended West Point in New York in 1824. He was determined to do his best in his academic endeavors. In 1828, his hard work paid off and he graduated the top of the class. But he was unable to join the corps of engineers because there were not any open positions available, so he took a position as an artillery officer.

Church stayed at West Point from 1828 to 1833 as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. In 1832 to 1833 he was called by his artillery regiment to fill in, so he was posted at different places, like Newport, Rhode Island, Fort Independence, and Boston. In 1833 he was assigned to West Point to take over the Principal Assistant Professor of Mathematics position under Professor Davies.

In 1838, Church became professor when Davies left his position. Once Professor Church began to direct the mathematics department, the curriculum was very strict. Each class had a max of twelve cadets. Oral recitation and repetition was the primary answer to mathematical question taught. Church implemented many mathematics and science course during his tenure, and he exposed of many nonscientific subjects. He also published four books: *Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus*, *Elements of Analytical Geometry*, *Element of Analytical Trigonometry*, *Elements of Descriptive Geometry*. The books were used in West Point's curriculum.

In 1852, Church graduated from Yale with his law degree. At West Point he became an advocated staff judge. He commenced to rewrite Davies's version of Bourdon's *Algebra* a year preceding his death. Professor Church passed on March 30, 1878

Source: [http: www.dean.usma.edulmath/about/history/church.htm](http://www.dean.usma.edulmath/about/history/church.htm)

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March 16, 2004