

Frank Arthur Barton

Colonel Frank Arthur Barton, Commandant and Professor of Military Science and Tactics

July 5, 1869 — August 5th, 1921

On August 5th, 1921, during the vacation period of the University, Frank Arthur Barton, Colonel United States Cavalry, died in the City Hospital of Ithaca. The Faculty at its first session on the reopening of the University places upon its minutes this record of its sense of loss and of its appreciation of Colonel Barton as Commandant and Professor of Military Science, as loyal Cornellian, and as colleague.

Colonel Barton was graduated from the Sibley College of Mechanical Engineering in 1891, was commissioned in the United States Army the same year, served as officer during the Spanish-American War and through the Philippine pacification campaign at the end of the nineties, and in 1904 the War Department detailed him to his Alma Mater as Commandant and Professor of Military Science and Tactics. After four years of successful service as Commandant, he returned to his regiment and later pursued with distinction advanced military studies in the School of the Line at Fort Leavenworth. During the World War the Government returned him to the University as Commandant, although on account of ill health he was retired from active service in 1917 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. As head of the Students Army Training Corps and as officer in charge of the inspection of the S.A.T.C. units in the Department of the East, he rendered the University and the nation invaluable assistance. On conclusion of the war he resumed his duties as Commandant of the Cornell unit of the Reserve Officers Training Corps, continuing in this capacity until the time of his death, and the high rating of the Cornell unit is largely due to his personality and administrative skill,

Colonel Barton exemplified the finest ideals of officer, gentleman, and citizen. In a rare degree he combined rigorous disciplinary standards with an instinctively genial tact which enabled him to maintain in the Corps an exceptional morale. He had an extraordinary insight into the hearts and minds of young men, and the breadth of his education brought him sympathetic contact with a great range of men in every walk of life. He had a genius for comradeship. With the buoyant, forward-looking spirit of youth, unshaken by ill health, he united the wisdom and sound judgment of a man ripened by wide experience. In his passing the Corps has lost a gifted and sympathetic leader, his fellow officers a genial comrade, and the faculty a beloved counselor and associate.

Source: Faculty Records, p. 1248 Resolutions Adopted by The Faculty of Cornell University October, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-One

Colonel U. S. Cavalry, Retired; In Cornell University, 1904-1908, 1917-1921

Cornell University Faculty Memorial Statement

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