

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

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IN THIS ISSUE:

*Women's History Month; St. Patrick's Day Reprise;
Cruisewear Update; Civil War Sesqui Preview; Stay in Touch*

March is Women's History Month



The first woman to graduate from Northwestern was Sarah Roland, in 1874 (photo above, second from left). For a photo gallery of representative women from NU's early years—alumnae, faculty wives, administrators, and even a trustee—see our [Facebook exhibit](http://tinyurl.com/4js533e) (<http://tinyurl.com/4js533e>). We've focused there on women who were active before 1920—when women got the vote. But the holdings of the University Archives contain rich documentation of the lives and roles of women at NU throughout its history—in photos, letters, reports, handbooks, scrapbooks, and much more. Many of these sources are listed in our [Women at Northwestern Resource Guide](http://www.library.northwestern.edu/node/1759) (<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/node/1759>). And, for more photos, take note of the [notable alumnae](http://exhibits.library.northwestern.edu/archives/exhibits/alumni/) from more recent years featured at <http://exhibits.library.northwestern.edu/archives/exhibits/alumni/>.

St. Patrick's Day Reprise: The Story of O'

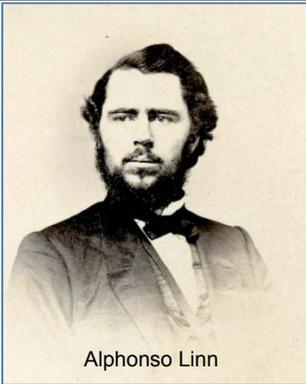
We can't help bringing this story back every March 17: It's [the story of O'](#)—full name, William O'Flaherty, born February, 1863, in Ireland. By the turn of the century, O'Flaherty was an Evanston restaurateur, running the eatery known simply as "O's," on Davis street. O's was a popular student hang-out where generous portions and generous tabs ensured that no one ever went hungry. O'Flaherty, himself also often referred to by his initial letter, was a great supporter of NU and its athletic teams. Back when it was a legal to do so, O was the preeminent bookie for odds on collegiate sporting events. O was a staunch supporter of the "Purple," though his nose for business often led him to place bets against the hometown boys. Commemorate St. Patrick's day by watching this Quick-Time video (produced by the Archives) about O. <http://files.library.northwestern.edu/archives/o2.mov>



Cruisewear Update: Wool Is In



Just in time for that spring-break trip to Florida or the Islands (any islands), here's a fashion tip from the NU Archives. We recently acquired a piece of vintage swimwear from a circa-1950s alumnus. This fashionable tank top is all wool (yes, there are moth holes), with felt letters stitched on spelling out "Beach Guard NU." Imagine patrolling the beach or, worse, diving into Lake Michigan in this hot, heavy, scratchy garment. Happy spring break, everyone!



Civil War Sesqui Preview

The four-year Civil War Sesquicentennial begins in April, 2011. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, the University Archives has prepared a [Guide to Resources](#) documenting Northwestern's and Evanston's involvement. This article provides a Northwestern-centric introductory summary of the Civil War years.

In April, 1861, just six years after Northwestern University opened its doors on the corner of Hinman and Chicago, the Civil War broke out. The young town of Evanston mobilized quickly. At the new University, attendance was reduced during the next three years as faculty, students, and alumni enlisted. Most joined local Illinois regiments; some returned to their home states to join up there, including one or two students from the South who went home to join the Confederates.

In May, 1864, after being excused from classes for the remainder of the term, 25 Northwestern students mustered in under the call for troops to serve 100 days. Known as the "University Guards," they served under Captain Alphonso C. Linn (NU, 1860) of Company F, 134th Illinois Infantry, and were responsible for garrison duty in Columbus, Kentucky.

By the end of the Civil War, 42 Northwestern graduates, and 41 men who attended NU or its Preparatory School but did not graduate, had performed military service. Eight members of the University died in service—including Alphonso Linn. The 1903 [Alumni Record](#) later commented, "That the material going from the University into the army was of the best sort, is to be surmised from the relatively large number of men who were promoted and who proved effective leaders. At the time of the mustering out, three were Colonels or Lieutenant Colonels, two Majors, three Adjutants, five Captains, eight Lieutenants, and four Chaplains."

In honor of the Northwestern men who served in the Civil War, the Class of 1905 presented the University with a cannon from Fort Wadsworth (Staten Island, NY). The cannon pointed "harmlessly through the campus trees" until it was removed during a WWII scrap drive. The names of the men who died in Civil War military service are included on the tablet in Alice Millar Chapel and in the Archives' digital exhibit, "[In Service to their Country.](#)"

Over the coming years, the Archives will continue to feature items and documents relating to NU and the Civil War in our newsletter and on Facebook.

STAY IN TOUCH

Stay current with NU's history. Check the Archives' facebook page to see new acquisitions, photo galleries, stories from the past relating to current events at NU, notes on NU traditions, and more....And follow "This Day in NU History" on Twitter—a new old fact every day!



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