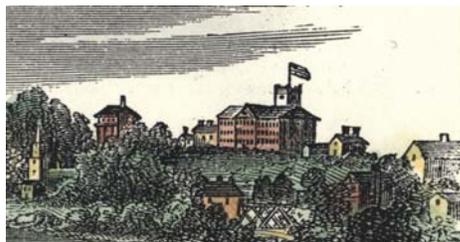




Website: <http://www.nps.gov/spar>

## The Legacy of Springfield Armory's SUPERINTENDENTS AND COMMANDANTS

The Superintendents and Commandants often exercised a degree of influence that brought marked changes to the Armory, the city of Springfield, the Nation, and the Industrial World. In the course of their tenure, these men did more than just lead the National Armory. Among them were inventors, social reformers, and dedicated citizens who wished to leave more than a balanced account book at the Armory. Many of their lasting gifts remain as visible features in Springfield and in modern precision manufacturing.



**Main Arsenal,  
Springfield Armory, 1855**

The spirit and vision of these individuals are seen today as monuments, places of worship, public parks, and stately homes. In these ways, Springfield Armory brought cohesion to the ever-growing City of Springfield.

Recognition of the Armory's importance to the community occurred in 1852 when Springfield officially became a city. That year, the image of the Main Arsenal (today, the Museum at the Springfield Armory NHS), standing proudly on the crest of the hill overlooking the city, was incorporated into the top of the city's seal.

### **Growing Nation, City, and Armory**

Operations at Springfield Armory began slowly in 1795 with 40 workers producing 245 flintlock muskets in its first year as the Nation's first government-run armory. Steadily, the workers at the new Federal installation grew in confidence and experience. Strong Commanding Officers, notably Roswell Lee and James W. Ripley, were inspired by a vision of the "Grand National Armory." They saw the Armory as not only an outstanding manufacturing facility, but as a symbol of the growing power and dignity of the national government. As this vision became reality, Springfield took increased pride in its Armory. The Armory, in turn, started Springfield on its path as a manufacturing center and the most important city of western Massachusetts.

### **Civilian and Military Officers**

The Superintendent (civilian administrator), or Commandant (military administrator) of Springfield Armory maintained an efficient and cost effective arms production facility for the U.S. Government.

**-More-**

This goal was furthered by the replacement of civilian administration with military administrators, in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, in order to remove political influence and control. The position of Superintendent of the Armory was established in 1794 without definite parameters of authority.

The original legislation that created the position also named two additional appointments creating a system of checks and balances of authority. The Master Armorer and the Superintendent were tasked with overseeing the operation of the Armory. A third position, the Military Storekeeper/ Paymaster, was created to attend to the safe-keeping and distribution of the military stores at the Arsenals. After the War of 1812, the Superintendent became the single chief officer responsible for managing the National Armory.



**Lt. Col. Roswell Lee  
Superintendent 1815-33**

### Superintendents and Commandants of Springfield Armory

<u>Springfield Continental Arsenal &amp; Laboratory</u> Lt. Col. David Mason Jan. 1777 to Dec. 1780	Col. I.H. Wright June 1860 to Apr. 1861	Col. Jay E. Hoffer Mar. 1918 to Sept. 1918	Col. Stephen H. MacGregor Nov. 1945 to Aug. 1947
Capt. John Bryant 1780 to 1794	Capt. George Dwight Apr. 1861 to Aug. 1861	Lt. Col. Lindley D. Hubbell Sept. 1918 to Apr. 1920	Col. Morris K. Barroll, Jr. Aug. 1947 to May 1950
<b>Springfield Armory</b> David Ames, Supt. 1794 to Oct. 1802	Capt. Alexander B. Dyer Aug. 1861 to Oct. 1864	Col. Thales L. Ames Apr. 1920 to Aug. 1923	Col. James L. Guion Jul. 1950 to May 1953
Joseph Morgan, Supt. Nov. 1802 to Oct. 1805	Maj. T.T.S. Laidley Oct. 1864 to May 1866	Maj. Earl McFarland Aug. 1923 to Jun. 1924	Col. W.J. Crowe Aug. 1953 to Aug. 1954
Benjamin Prescott, Supt. Nov. 1805 to Aug. 1813	Maj. J.G. Benton Jun. 1866 to Aug. 1881	Col. H.W. Schull Jun. 1924 to Jun. 1929	Col. D.G. Ludlam Sept. 1954 to July 1958
Henry Lechler, Supt. Sept. 1813 to Jan. 1815	Lt. Col. A.R.B. Buffington Oct. 1881 to Feb. 1892	Col. J.W. Joyes Jul. 1929 to Dec. 1933	Col. O.E. Hurlbut Aug. 1958 to Sept. 1959
Lt. Col. Roswell Lee, Supt. June 1815 to Aug. 1833	Col. Alfred Mordecai Feb. 1892 to Feb. 1898	Lt. Col. T.J. Smith Jan. 1934 to Feb. 1938	Col. C.L.P. Medinnis Sept. 1959 to July 1963
John Robb, Supt. Nov. 1833 to Apr. 1841	Lt. Col. Isaac Arnold, Jr. Feb. 1898 to May 1899	Brig. Gen. G.H. Stewart Sept. 1938 to Jun. 1942	Col. W. J. Durrenberger July 1963 to Sept. 1965
Maj. James W. Ripley Apr. 1841 to Aug. 1854	Lt. Col. Frank H. Phipps Jun. 1899 to Aug. 1907	Col. Earl McFarland Jun. 1942 to Jul. 1943	Col. S.H. Sweeney, Jr. Sept. 1965 to Nov. 1967
Gen. James S. Whitney, Supt. Oct. 1854 to Mar. 1860	Col. Stanhope E. Blunt Aug. 1907 to Sept. 1912	Col. George A. Woody Aug. 1943 to Aug. 1944	Lt. Col. C.B. Zumwalt Nov. 1967 to Apr. 1968
	Lt. Col. William S. Pierce Sept. 1912 to Jan. 1918	Brig. Gen. Norman F. Ramsey Oct. 1944 to Nov. 1945	<b>Springfield Armory closes April 1968</b>