

Captain Caspar F. Goodrich

PRESIDENT, 12 JANUARY 1889 - 22 JULY 1892
and 31 DECEMBER 1896 - 23 APRIL 1898

Oil on Canvas

Paul K. M. Thonry, ca. 1909

Gift of Mrs. A. Ross Jones

Ac. 1976.28.01



One of the founders of the Naval War College, Lieutenant Commander Caspar Goodrich (1847-1925) served with Rear Admiral Luce and Captain William T. Sampson on the board of officers that Secretary of the Navy William D. Chandler convened to consider Luce's recommendation in May 1884 to establish the Naval War College. Goodrich was Luce's first choice to be the new college's lecturer in naval history and tactics, but he was unavailable for this assignment. In 1886-1889, as officer in charge of the Torpedo Station in Newport, he saved the College from amalgamation with that technical research and training facility.

Goodrich was the third president of the College and oversaw the construction of Luce Hall. As the fifth president, he led the College in its strong advocacy for advanced rational contingency planning in the years just before the Spanish-American War. He had been first in his Naval Academy Class of 1864. In 1873, he had been one of the founders of the U.S. Naval Institute and, in 1882, had served as U.S. naval observer on the staff of British General Sir Garnet Wolseley at the bombardment of Alexandria.

The portrait was donated to the College in 1955 by Goodrich's granddaughter, Mrs. Ross Jones, through Goodrich's nephew, Admiral Alan Goodrich Kirk (NWC Class of 1929 and staff member, 1930-1931).