

Career Mixes Army, Education, Business

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Col. West Alexander Hamilton, U. S. A.

Col. West Alexander Hamilton, native Washingtonian, has mixed the army, education and business into a colorful three-way career during most of his 54 years.

His commission as colonel in the organized reserves, by virtue of which he commands the 428th Infantry Reserves and the Third Corps Area's Citizens' Military Training Camp conducted each summer at Ft. Howard, Md., was earned through a period of military service extending from 1905, when he enlisted in the D. C. National Guard, and including active duty on the Mexican Border and in France.

The educational phase of his career has included teaching in elementary school in Washington, September, 1907, until June, 1916; a brief period on the Armstrong High School faculty, interrupted in March, 1917, by a call to World War Service, and his present membership on the board of education for the District of Columbia, to which he was appointed in 1937.

He has retained a partnership in the Hamilton Printing Company since 1908, devoting his major civilian attention to that business since the war.

Col. Hamilton's civic interests are many. He is senior warden at St. Luke P. E. Church and a member of the denomination's executive council, department of missions and department of social service, for the diocese of Washington.

He is also a member of the board of directors of Southeast House, the committee of management, Twelfth Street YMCA, the Washington Chamber of Commerce, board of trustees and the executive committee of the Community Chest of Washington, East Central Civic Association, D.C. Suffrage Association, Oldest Inhabitants, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Columbia Lodge of Elks, Pythagoras Lodge, FAAM (past master) and James E. Walker Post, American Legion (past commander).

Col. Hamilton gained the rank of Captain (Company C, 372nd Infantry) during the World War, leading his company in a number of major battles. Following his discharge in April, 1919, he was commissioned a captain of infantry reserves on September 19, 1919; major, March, 1924, lieutenant colonel, August, 1926, and colonel, 1933. He has commanded the Ft. Howard CMTC battalion since 1936.

His wife is the former Miss Marcelitte C. Newton of New York whom he married in November, 1913.