

native user of American Sign Language (his mother was deaf), Gallaudet maintained lifelong connections with the American Deaf community largely through “his boys,” the Deaf male graduates of the college.

The youngest son of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, cofounder of American Deaf education, Gallaudet was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on February 5, 1837. After a stint as a teacher at the American School for the Deaf from 1855 to 1857, he was invited to establish a school for deaf children in the District of Columbia. The Columbian Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind was established on February 16, 1857, its college division charter signed by Abraham Lincoln on April 8, 1864. Gallaudet died in Hartford, Connecticut, on September 26, 1917, in the centennial year of the founding of American Deaf education.

—Joseph J. Murray

See also Deaf, History of the; Deaf Culture; Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet.

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▣ GALLAUDET, THOMAS HOPKINS (1787–1851)

American educator

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was the cofounder of American Deaf education in 1817. A noted orator and evangelical Christian, Gallaudet used his considerable rhetorical skills to garner support from influential citizens and financial assistance from state legislatures for the then outlandish notion of educating Deaf people. Gallaudet held a lifelong interest in education and social reform, campaigning in areas as disparate as the common school movement, work with the mentally ill, and the abolition of slavery.

Gallaudet, born on December 10, 1787, became interested in the education of Deaf people after meeting Alice Cogswell, the Deaf daughter of a neighbor. With funding from Cogswell’s father and other prominent Connecticut citizens, Gallaudet traveled to Europe in 1815 to learn how to teach Deaf children. Dissatisfied by what he saw in British schools for Deaf people, Gallaudet was invited to visit a school in Paris. There, he received training from Deaf teachers Jean Massieu and Laurent Clerc. The latter accompanied Gallaudet back to Hartford in 1816 and helped him establish the first permanent school for the deaf in the United States in 1817, now known as the American School for the Deaf. Gallaudet served as the institution’s principal until 1830. Gallaudet and his wife, Sofia Fowler, a former pupil, had eight children, the eldest and youngest of whom continued their parents’ work with Deaf people. Gallaudet died on September 10, 1851.

—Joseph J. Murray

See also Deaf, History of the; Deaf Culture; Edward Miner Gallaudet.

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☐ **GALSWORTHY, JOHN E.** (1867–1933)

English novelist and dramatist

Educated at Harrow and at New College, Oxford, and recipient of the 1932 Nobel Prize in literature, John Galsworthy is best remembered for his series of novels tracing the history of the upper-middle-class Forsyte family from the 1880s to the 1920s. Appointed to Britain’s War Propaganda Bureau (WPB) in 1914, Galsworthy refused to encourage public hate of Germany, instead emphasizing support of men wounded and disabled in the conflict. To this end, he worked with the Red Cross in France at the Benevole Hospital for disabled soldiers, offered his family house as a convalescent home for recovering British soldiers, and chaired the executive committee of Kitchener House, a club for wounded sailors and soldiers. Galsworthy also published successful appeals on behalf of the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers, contributed material to the *American Journal of Care for Cripples*, among many other publications, and wrote the foreword to the proceedings of the second Inter-Allied Conference on the After-Care of Disabled Men (1918). Additionally, he served as editor of *Recalled to Life*, later *Reveille*, a Ministry of Pensions journal designed to inform the general public of the welfare of disabled sailors and soldiers. Galsworthy resigned as editor following ministry disenchantment with the public indignation sparked by the publication. Galsworthy’s collections *A Sheaf* (1916) and *Another Sheaf* (1917) contain articles he wrote specifically for the WPB.

—Jeffrey S. Reznick

See also Veterans; War.

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☐ **GALTON, FRANCIS (1822–1911)**

*English inventor, scientist, geographer,
meteorologist, eugenicist*

Francis Galton, inventor, scientist, explorer, and developer of eugenics, was born near Birmingham, England, on February 16, 1822. He entered medical school at King’s College, London, in 1839 but subsequently left, in part owing to the urgings of his second cousin, Charles Darwin. Galton then entered Trinity College, Cambridge, to finish his medical degree; he graduated in 1844.

Inspired by Darwin’s *Origin of Species*, Galton believed humankind could improve its physical and mental health through selective breeding, which he termed *eugenics*. Galton spent much of his later life conducting research on the physical and mental characteristics of Londoners in his anthropometric laboratory. He conducted studies on eminent men, twins, and adopted children to demonstrate the heritability of mental characteristics. Galton developed the idea for intelligence tests and the statistical methods of correlation and regression, which were used to verify the strength of heritable relationships.

Galton’s eugenics ideas inspired many countries, including the United States, France, Sweden, and Germany to adopt racial hygiene movements, immigration restrictions, and forced sterilization laws. These activities resulted in the castration, vasectomy, salpingectomy (the tying of the fallopian tubes), and deaths of numerous individuals from diverse racial