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**Alden March, M.D.**  
**Dean 1839-1869**

Dr. Alden March, founder of the Albany Medical College and its first Dean, was born in Sutton, Massachusetts into a large farming family. His older brother, Dr. David March, a surgeon in the United States Army in the War of 1812, influenced Alden to enter into the world of medicine. In 1820, Alden received his medical degree from Brown University, in Providence, RI. Only three weeks after he graduated from Brown, Dr. March performed his first operation; a harelip on a three week old infant. The operation was unsuccessful; however it spurred him to create a better forceps tool for the harelip procedure in the future. Alden March was an innovative man, which led to additional inventions, such as instruments for the removal of dead bone and a new method for removing bladder stones. Not long after his graduation, he arrived in Albany and began practicing surgery, as well as creating a private class in anatomy in which fourteen students attended. Besides having practiced surgery and lecturing on anatomy in Albany, Dr. March also lectured in Castleton, Vermont where he was a member of the faculty of medicine.

He formally proposed the creation of a medical school in Albany in 1830. He began his quest for a medical school with a lecture to the Albany city fathers. In his lecture, he presented Albany's need for a medical school and hospital, indicating how it would improve the quality of life for Albany residents. His initial request was met with resistance by his fellow colleagues in the area, as well as other medical schools sensing future competition. Luckily, Dr. March continued to persevere, eventually succeeding in his pursuit in 1838 when the New York State Legislature approved the medical school.