

A U.S. President Chats About His Albany Law Days



U.S. President McKinley

In the middle of his four years as United States president, William McKinley received a letter from Albany Law classmate Lewis H. O'Connor 1867 congratulating McKinley on his "success in life." O'Connor also warned the

president that it was his "fate to be trained in the Democratic camp," though he supported the Republican ticket for the 1896 elections.

O'Connor wrote: "Subsequent entries in my diary indicate something of a friendship between us and a promise on my part to inform his (sic) of my location in the west with a view I suppose to a mutual correspondence."

McKinley responded two days later on June 6, 1900: "It

was my good fortune to be a student at the Albany Law School at the time you indicate and I am always glad to hear from my old associates there and to learn that they are well and prosperous."

The letters are in the Library of Congress and copies were sent to Albany Law from Prof. Lewis Gould of the University of Texas, who wrote the book *The Presidency of William McKinley* (1980).