

OUR ACADEMY

VOL. I

Students, Families, and Achievements

The First Century of Albany Academy

John T. McClintock (cy 1957), ed.

7,883 entries, 2,572 surnames, 556 ancestries, 844 pages, 550,000 words, 4 ¾ lbs.

Our Academy is a biographical dictionary of every attendee of Albany Academy from 1815 to 1915, the first century of the school's existence. The original compilers, Dr. Henry Hun and Dr. Henry H. Hun, deceased in 1924 and 1972 respectively, collected all the information they could discover in the Academy records, including parents, addresses, prizes and positions. Other data include colleges attended and occupations pursued.

In addition to re-casting, re-formatting, and editing the Hun material, I have added a chronology, 1779-1913, a description of the nineteenth-century curriculum, and a 100-year list of prize recipients, positions of student leadership, and war records. All of the faculty of that period are listed, with their degrees and assignments. There is a roster of trustees, 1813 to 1913. Furthermore, there is a 6000-word guide to interesting entries, and lists of family countries of origin, generation counts, participation of ancestors in national conflicts, as well as indications of national position held by ancestors (samples below).

From genealogical research, the Dr.s Hun also named wives, grandparents and ancestors to the first immigrant. Of the 7,883 entries, there are 556 ancestries beyond the grandparents. Some extend to seventeenth century immigrants. A few go back to the Mayflower. Of interest to local historians are genealogical and family history data of all the vigorous Albany families of the early nineteenth century, the Van Rensselaers, Ten Eycks, Townsends, Pruyns, etc., all in one place through their connection to the school.

Of particular interest to me--a graduate of the Academy, former teacher and archivist--are the descriptions in many of the entries of the later achievements of the alumni. These range from occupations as laborers, writers, professionals, to first-railroad builders, bridge builders, generals, politicians and judges. The public is generally aware of some of these: Joseph Henry, Herman Melville, Learned Hand, Admiral Sigsbee, William Rose Benet. Many sons of governors and like notables of state politics attended the school, and Dr. Hun added information in his notes on parents and ancestors. Of course, some of those governors became presidents; entries include Van Burens and Roosevelts.

For fifty years, Albany Academy was the only institution in the capital region of New York providing education beyond grammar school to boys. Some went on to Yale, Union, Harvard, Williams, Cornell, R.P.I., Albany Business College, Columbia, the military academies. Some went directly to law or medical school. Many more went out as surveyors, clerks, joined parents or relatives as merchants or in manufacturing, or as physicians, bankers, and engineers.

In short, the collection is an interesting resource to historians, genealogists, sociologists, and to students of nineteenth-century educational history. It has significant value for studies of the Hudson River region and its infrastructure, with national application, from the steamboat to the era of the Erie Canal and first railroads, and other developments in business, manufacturing, and engineering.

These data have been of great use to me and to hundreds of patrons of the Academy Archives over the last 90 years. The time of the genealogical research--the first two decades of the twentieth century--is an asset as well as a detriment, for although much genealogical data have become available since 1923, the data Dr. Hun collected were closer in time to the sources and, in part, represent the contributions of alumni and family members who had lived to experience the events they presented. While some genealogies are very extensive, *Our Academy* might not well serve the individual seeking information solely on one family. I would be happy to provide information on the extent of any particular surname.

All of the data up to and including grandparents (excluding family trees) are now in a relational database I have written. Tables derived from that database support a web site, www.aaclasses.org. Basic enrollment data are available to the general public: name, grade and year entered, grade and year completed. These data are searchable by name or year of entry. For purchasers of *Our Academy*, additional enrollment, family data, and search tools will become available on-line, and updates of data as new information becomes available.

TO ORDER *OUR ACADEMY*

Send e-mail with your name and mailing address to john@mcpdatabases.com or write John T. McClintock, 56 D Weis Road, Albany, NY 12208-1947. You will be billed for \$120, plus sales tax if applicable. Shipping is free in the United States.

INTERESTING ENTRIES, A BROWSING GUIDE

(a sample from page 813)

Adams, Charles Henry, 1833, knitting mill entrepreneur, first mayor of Cohoes, Congress |

Adams, James Dexter, 1858, career naval officer, Commander, United States Navy, Spanish-American War | Adams, Laurence Stowell, 1880, Capt., Construction Corps, US Navy; Industrial Mgr., Navy Yard, expert in submarine design

Agpwan, Emilio, b., Philippine Islands, 1908, a member of a primitive tribe of Igorots, and sent to the United States for education.

Allen, Horatio, 1815, civil engineer, pioneer and innovator in railroad engineering, Pres., NY & Erie Railroad [see his entry below]

Alvord, Sellick Whitney, 1837, hardware merchant in California, engaged in China trade | Alvord, William Jr., 1839, Mayor of San Francisco, Pres., many corporations, Pres., Bank of California

Arnold, Benjamin Walworth Jr., 1877, Pres., Director, timber, lumber, railway companies, trustee, Hamilton, R. P. I., Albany Medical College, Albany College of Pharmacy, etc., and with a fascinating ancestry

Aspinwall, Lewis Augustus, 1859, agricultural inventor and manufacturer, first automatic potato planting machine | Aspinwall, Lewis Eleazer, 1828, Aspinwall's bell foundry made many prestigious bell placements | Aspinwall, William Billings, 1888, Principal of State Normal School, Mass., very active in educational associations

Austin, Jeremiah Jackson, 1825, owner of Albany & Canal Towing Line

Babbit, Pierre Teller, 1823, teacher, pastor, Rector, headmaster

Babcock, Heman Bradley Potter, 1852, Civil War veteran, ship's surgeon, leader in medical circles, diplomat | Babcock, Robert Witbeck, 1907, Prof., English, Shakespeare scholar, writer

Backus, Jonathan Trumbull, 1817, Pastor of Schenectady Presbyterian Church, Moderator, General Assembly, Presbyterian Church

Bacon, Allen Harlow, 1880, Pres., Bacon, Stickney & Co., coffee and spices

Bailey, William Howard, 1841, Civil War Surgeon, family physician, Pres., NY Medical Society

Baker, Benjamin Franklin, 1848, Civil War General, Saratoga County leader, NY Assembly

Barnes, Thurlow Weed, 1864, Editor, publisher, Albany *Evening Journal*, active in politics | Barnes, William Jr., 1876, Editor-in-Chief, Albany *Morning Express*, Albany *Evening Journal*, powerful politician

Bell, Garrit W., 1828, Head, US Assay Office, San Francisco, killed in explosion

Benedict, Henry M., 1820, noted in contemporary Academy record as "Negro" | Benedict, Lewis Jr., 1828, Judge Advocate General, Governor's staff, Brig. Gen. Civil War, killed in action | Benedict, Spencer Stafford, 1820, close friend and staff member of Senator, Gov., Secretary, William H. Seward, Harbor Master, extensive and interesting ancestry

ALLEN ENTRY

(a sample from page 11, starting with Horatio)

Horatio, (b., Schenectady, N. Y., May 10, 1803; d., South Orange, Essex Co., N. J., 1890; AA, 1815; 1st Cert. in Algebra, 2nd Cert. in the Languages, 1816; Honorary Cert., 1817; Columbia, 1820; civil engineer; in the service of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Co., "the great engineering enterprise of the day"; went to England for the Company in 1828 and purchased three locomotives, two of which were built at Newcastle-upon-Tyne by George Stephenson, a native of

Northumberland, and the founder of the railway system of Great Britain, and one by Foster, Rastrick and Co., of Stourbridge, Worcestershire. The following spring, he made an experimental trip with them at Honesdale, Pa.; President of the American Society of Civil Engineers; res., Montrose, N. J.) Ancestry:

1. Benjamin Allen, LL. D., (b., North Kingston, R. I., 1771; d., Hyde Park, Dutchess Co., N. Y., July 20, 1836; Brown

University, A. B., A. M., 1797; LL. D., 1822; South Carolina College (?), 1808; tutor at Brown, 1797-1798; Prof. of Mathematics and Philosophy at Union, 1800-1809; first Principal of The Albany Academy, 1815; resigned, in 1817 and established a classical school at Hyde Park.) Probably a son of Christopher Allen, of North Kingston, R. I. M. Mary Benedict, (b., Lisbon, Conn., July 24, 1778.)

2. Rev. Joel Benedict, D. D., (b., North Salem, Westchester Co., N. Y., Jan. 8, 1745; d., Newburgh, Orange Co., N. Y., Feb. 13, 1816; grad., Princeton, 1765; Union, D. D., 1808; Dartmouth, D. D., 1814; Presbyterian minister; after being licensed to preach, spent several years "travelling, and supplying destitute churches"; pastor of Newent Society, Lisbon, Conn., Feb. 21, 1771-May 1, 1782, when he removed to the vicinity of North Salem, preaching without a charge until Aug., 1784; at that time, he became pastor of a church at Plainfield, Windham Co., Conn., holding that office until his death; a notable Hebrew Scholar and a student of other Cognate Oriental languages, of whom the Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D., LL. D., (President of Union College from 1804-Jan. 29, 1866, and who married his grand-daughter, Sarah Allen,) wrote, "that he had few equals in the departments of classics and mathematics.") M. Sarah McKown, elsewhere spelled McCown, (b., Boston, Mass., May 24, 1752, O. S.; d., Newburgh, N. Y., June 20, 1831.)

3. Deacon Peter Benedict, (b., Ridgefield, Conn., March 20, 1714, O. S.; d., North Salem, N. Y., aged 73; a man of influence and deep piety; Aug. 25, 1779, moderator of the "meeting of church members of Upper Salem, Cortlandt Manor, and other places adjacent, to consult as to the expediency of organizing a church," which materialized the same month, with Peter Benedict as Deacon.) M., 1st, Mary Parish; 2nd, Agnes (Tyler) Heaton, widow of the Rev. Thomas Heaton, A. M.

Capt. Robert McKown, or McCown, (of Scottish Ancestry; res., Bristol, Lincoln Co., Maine.)

4. Deacon James Benedict, (b., Southold, L. I., Jan. 5, 1685; d., Ridgefield, Conn., Feb. 9, 1767; an original settler of Ridgefield, (see Trumbull, page 460), and second Deacon of Church; fence viewer, 1715; Ensign, 1719; Justice of the Peace for Fairfield Co., May, 1732; Captain, 1737; Representative to General Court for Ridgefield, May, 1740-1745, and 1748-1752; wrote the *Genealogy of the Family of the Benedicts*, dated, March 14, 1755.) M. Sarah Hyatt, (b., Dec. 1686; d., Feb. 9, 1767.)

John Tyler, of Branford, New Haven Co., Conn.

5. Deacon John Benedict, (b., Southold, L. I.) Further An., see Spencer Stafford Benedict.

Thomas Hyatt, of Norwalk, Fairfield Co., Conn. M. Mary Hyatt, of Norwalk.

James H., (b., Sept. 17, 1850; d., Albany, N. Y., May 2, 1922; AA, Prep., B Class, Sept. 1, 1862; grad., June, 1869; undertaker; res., 63 Clinton Avenue,) son of James J. Allen and Rosanna Rafferty. M. Anna Kennedy.

James J., (b., Albany, N. Y., Oct. 3, 1827; d., Albany, Sept. 28, 1910; AA, June 1, 1835; exit, Sept. 1, 1835; Street Superintendent; undertaker; res., Clinton Avenue,) son of James Allen, (b., Ireland,) and Winifred Kilpatrick. M. Rosanna Rafferty, (b., 1829; d., May 11, 1879,) dau. of Nancy Rafferty, (b., Ireland, 1782; d., Albany, N. Y., Feb. 9, 1872.)

John K., (AA, AC., C Form, 1860; exit, B Form, June 27, 1862; Oration: "The Uses of History"; Principal's Prize; AA Cadets: 1st Sergeant, Co. A, 1862.)

Joseph Francis, (b., March 12, 1859; AA, Ac., C Class, 1876; undertaker; res., 217 N. Pearl Street,) son of James J. Allen, (res., 655 Broadway,) and Rosanna Rafferty.

Walter S., (b., Albany, N. Y., 1853; d., Buffalo, Erie Co., N. Y., Sept. 11, 1916; AA, Prep., B Class, Sept. 7, 1862; grad., July 1, 1869; Oration: "Christopher Columbus, the Giver of the New World to the Old"; Caldwell Mathematical Medal; Honor Roll: 1866; Beck; State Bank Examiner; merchant,) son of Hiram W. Allen, (b., Middlefield, Otsego Co., N. Y., 1817; d., Albany, N. Y., Feb. 8, 1890; hardware merchant; firm of Allen, Shepard

and Curtis; res., 733 Eagle Street; 1st wife Angeline Todd,) and Lorena Shepard, (b., 1823; d., Aug. 19, 1886.) M. Katharine Van der Wort or Wart. GP: Reuben Allen and Jane Campbell, both of Middlefield, N. Y. and of John and Kate Shepard, both of Connecticut.

William, (b., Middlefield, Otsego Co., N. Y., March 26, 1820; AA, June 1, 1832; exit, July, 1832; lawyer,) son of William M. Allen, (one of the first settlers of Tully, Onondaga Co., N. Y.; Supervisor of Tully, 1822.)

William L., M. D., (b., Greenbush, Rensselaer Co., N. Y., Nov. 7, 1860; AA, Prep., D Class, 1876; exit, B Form, 1878, owing to ill health; Albany Medical College, M. D., 1881; physician and surgeon; business address, 303 McCarthy Building, Boise, Idaho.) M. Abbie J. Dewey, of Franklin, Delaware Co., N. Y. Ancestry:

1. Charles Sanford Allen, M. D., (b., Greenport, Columbia Co., N. Y., June 8, 1824; College of Physicians and Surgeons, Woodstock, Vermont, M. D., 1849.) M. Sarah Willis.

2. Peter Allen, (of Bristol, England; b., 1782; d., 1865; farmer; res., Taghnic and Chatham, Columbia Co., N. Y.) M. Hannah Cobel, granddaughter of Admiral Seth Cobel, of the British Navy.

Edwin Willis, (of London, England; res., East Greenbush, Rensselaer Co., N. Y.)

3. William Allen, (b., 1756, d., 1833; "assisted in placing the chain, made by Peter Townsend, across the Hudson in 1777", to prevent the passage North of British ships; res., Churchtown, Columbia Co., N. Y.) M. Jane Sherman, (b., 1758-9.)

4. Thomas Allen, Original Immigrant, (b., England, 1710; d., 1794; came to America about 1717; settled at Livingston Manor, Columbia Co., N. Y., about 1750, whose son, John Allen, was massacred, with his family, by Indians.)

STUDENT SURNAME ENROLLMENTS (sample from page 831)

Smith, 73	Reynolds, 21	Austin, 18	Babcock, 14
Brown, 53	Cook, 21	Staats, 16	Cameron, 13
Lansing, 53	Robinson, 21	McClure, 16	Griffin, 13
Davis, 43	Waterman, 21	Palmer, 16	Cassidy, 13
Wilson, 40	Martin, 20	Anderson, 16	Ransom, 13
Ten Eyck, 36	Mills, 20	Fuller, 15	Shaw, 13
Miller, 35	Campbell, 20	Skinner, 15	Schuyler, 13
White, 32	Thomas, 20	Young, 15	McKown, 13
Jones, 31	Strong, 20	Parsons, 15	Cooper, 13
Townsend, 28	Wells, 20	Sanders, 15	Case, 13
Clark, 28	Russell, 20	Murphy, 15	Andrews, 13
Johnson, 27	Burton, 20	Moore, 15	Mather, 12
Pruyn, 27	King, 20	Holmes, 15	Cluett, 12
Whitney, 25	Baker, 20	Tucker, 15	Peck, 12
Gould, 24	Hill, 19	Herrick, 15	Morgan, 12
Winne, 24	Boyd, 19	McHarg, 15	Perry, 12
Van Rensselaer, 24	Hawley, 19	Wendell, 14	Kirk, 12
Adams, 24	Gray, 19	Newman, 14	Livingston, 12
Williams, 24	Stevens, 19	Webster, 14	Eaton, 12
Porter, 23	Allen, 18	Yates, 14	Norton, 12
Harris, 23	Gregory, 18	Goodwin, 14	Warren, 12
Wood, 22	Bender, 18	Crannell, 14	Ford, 12
Taylor, 22	Thompson, 18	Easton, 14	Chapman, 12
Humphrey, 22	Olcott, 18	Cole, 14	Douglas, 12

McCammon, 12	Goold, 11	Bacon, 10	Thacher, 10
Myers, 12	Wheeler, 11	Van Schaack, 10	Steele, 10
Burt, 12	Nichols, 11	Bleecker, 10	Churchill, 10
Walker, 12	Gibson, 11	Fearey, 10	Cuyler, 10
Groesbeeck, 12	Quackenbush, 11	Walsh, 10	Van Allen, 10
Parker, 11	Sherman, 11	Packard, 10	Hawe, 10
McIntyre, 11	Freeman, 11	Gibbons, 10	Frost, 10
Leonard, 11	Rathbone, 11	Hall, 10	Van Vechten, 10
Hoffman, 11	Jackson, 11	Kennedy, 10	Davidson, 10
Keeler, 11	Sheldon, 11	Rice, 10	Watson, 10
McElroy, 11	Ellis, 10	Reed, 10	Rogers, 10
Hoyt, 11	Barnes, 10	Van Buren, 10	Greene, 10

STUDENT ANCESTORS WHO FOUGHT IN WAR OF 1812

Abbott	Cole	Griswold	Merrick
Babcock	Collier	Hilton	Morss
Balch	Collins	Hopkins	Noble
Batchelder	Cox	Humphrey	Read
Becker	Davenport	Jermain	Sabin
Bogardus	Ellis	Lansing	Silliman
Boyce	Foster	Marcy	Street
Chapman	Greene	McKissick	Van Rensselaer
Chase	Griffith	Melius	Vanneman
Coan	Griswold	Merchant	

CURRICULUM (sample from page 785)



Battalion, 1912-1913

Of the 7,500 men in this study, there are career data for 3,700. Of those, 630, or 17%, joined the military forces of the United States, and 500, or 13.5%, saw duty in war time. The Academy battalion was in great part a consequence of the Civil War. In turn, it contributed to the high participation of Academy men in both World Wars.