

GEORGE DEXTER 1817

" A Few Kegs of Silver Black Lead, a superior article for giving a high and rich polish to Stoves, Franklins, and Jambs. Also, a quantity of "Rogers' Solution," for cleaning and polishing brass--the facility and perfect safety with which this liquid can be used, and its cheapness, recommend it strongly to the attention of those who have brass grates, fenders, &c. For sale by

George Dexter 57 State St., Albany"

From: Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 7

uc3laf1817 dexter-9-0001

Son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Province) Dexter, was born at Albany, N.Y., July 2, 1799; died there July 21, 1883. After being given an elementary education in the city schools, he was sent, at the age of 16, to Union College, from which he graduated with full honors. He studied law, was admitted, but never practiced. In his early life he manifested those traits of self reliance and energy which enabled him subsequently to be the architect of his own future. About 1827, when he married, he engaged in business with Henry Rawles and James Archibald McClure in the drug business, locating at the south side of State Street, which firm became one of great prominence, as its business spread until it eventually vied with those in the metropolis. After a time he withdrew and went into business on his own account at No. 57 State Street, and his place was known as "Apothecaries' Hall." In 1850 he formed a partnership with Joseph Nellegar, and acquired the property at the northeast corner of State and Pearl streets, the most prominent intersection of streets in Albany's business section. This partnership continued for 18 years when, having secured a comfortable fortune by the application of the rule of absolutely fair dealing, he retired.

In 1839 and 1840 he yielded to the solicitation of friends to enter political life and was chosen to represent the old Fifth Ward in the Board of Supervisors, and he was elected in 1848 and 1849 to represent the Sixth Ward in the Common Council. He was actively concerned in the founding of the Albany Medical College, and for a number of years was a trustee. For a long time he was a vestryman of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and on his death was senior warden. The rector, Rev. Dr. Walter W. Battershall, paid his memory the following tribute: "His life of 83 years was to a singular degree identified with the history of the period. From his baptism in the little, stone church that stood underneath the fort in the middle of State Street, the first Episcopal Church west of the Hudson in all America--what a host of memories concerning the history of this city and this parish were gathered up in his life. He represented much that was best in its type of character and life. The courtesy of the old days, the simple tastes, the spotless integrity, the faith and reverence, the serenity and content and freedom from the push and rush of these more recent days--all these were conspicuous traits of his character, and entered in the kindly, genial flow of his life. He was a man who won your trust and love, and he never betrayed them. The world, the church, the life of the household, and friendship and business, has need of such men--men whose fidelity you can lean on as an oaken staff. They are the moral salt of a community, and their memories are a precious inheritance and an inspiration to gentle and true and loyal living." The vestry of St. Peter's church made record, in part, as follows: "He was a man of great beauty of character,

whose kind and gentle nature made his life rich in friendships, and who sustained all the trusts and relations of life with a rare courtesy, dignity and fidelity. He was for many years a member of the vestry, giving to it his judicious counsel and unwearied labors. We order the chancel draped with the customary badge of mourning."

After retiring from business, he continued to occupy an office on the ground floor of the same building, where he was wont to meet with his friends daily for the sole purpose of continuing the intimate companionship of a large circle of acquaintances, and was a most entertaining conversationalist, for his recollections comprised a varied lot of most interesting local history, dating back to the time when he made the trip, in company with his father, upon the first journey of Robert Fulton's famous steamboat, the "Clermont," He could also vividly describe the visit of Lafayette, Sept. 17, 1824, when given a rousing public reception by the city.

Bishop William Croswell Doane made this tribute in his address before the Convention of the Episcopal Church, in 1884. "A very prominent figure has passed away from Albany in the death of George Dexter, for many years one of the most active and useful members of the vestry of St. Peter's Church, and at the time of his death, its senior warden. I miss his kindly greeting, which was almost a daily pleasure in my life upon the street, and the whole town misses him, as one of the few old-fashioned gentlemen of Albany, 'a serene and genial old friend, who, without being garrulous, took pleasure in stirring up old-time reminiscences of people and things in the Albany of a former day. He loved to talk,' I quote from the same graceful notice of him by my dear friend, Mr. Orlando Meads (Union 1826) 'of the school and school mistresses of his early years, of the clergymen, and especially of the old rectors of St. Peter's, their habits, peculiarities and the many interesting facts connected with them. All these things made him a centre of interest / loving to his friends. His was a beautiful, serene old age, tempered by time; strengthened by a firm and quiet religious faith; but ever preserving its interest in the happiness and welfare of those about him, and thus it came gently and peacefully to its close, leaving us pleasant remembrances of a good and useful and benignant life.*"

He was buried in the Albany Rural Cemetery, and in the nave of St. Peter's church a window of beautiful artistic creation was placed in his memory as its warden.

George Dexter married at Albany, N.Y., April 5, 1827, Mary Magdalene Cuyler, born at Fort Johnson, N.Y., the historic place of Sir. William Johnson, Feb. 3, 1810; died at Albany, Oct. 4, 1847, daughter of John Cornelius and Hannah (Maley) Cuyler.

1817

GEORGE DEXTER:

(3)

(Hud.-Mohawk Gen.)

Children, born at Albany:

1. Anna Augusta, July 16, 1833
2. Catherine Cuyler March 4, 1837; unmarried.
3. Cynthia Reynolds Oct. 14, 1839; died at Albany,
Nov. 23, 1893; unmarried.
4. Mary Jane June 27, 1845; died Albany, Feb. 7, 1848.

Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical & Family Memoirs
vol. 4 pp. 1732-33.
Cuyler Reynolds, ed.
Lewis Historical Pub. Co.
New York
1911.

CLASS OF 1817

GEORGE DEXTER

Born July 2, 1799 at Albany, N. Y.

Died July 21, 1883 at Albany, N. Y.

Graduated at Union College, 1817.

Admitted to the bar, but never practiced.

He married April 5, 1827 at Albany, N. Y., Mary Magdalen Cuyler, born February 3, 1810 at Fort Johnson, N. Y., and died October 4, 1847 at Albany. She was a daughter of John C. and Hannah (Maley) Cuyler.

Children:

1. Anna Augusta Born July 16, 1833.
2. Catherine Cuyler Born March 4, 1837 at Albany;
Unmarried
3. Cynthia Reynolds Born October 14, 1839 at Albany
Died November 23, 1893 at Albany
Unmarried.
4. Mary Born June 27, 1845 at Albany
Died February 7, 1848 at Albany

FROM

Dexter Genealogy
Orrando Perry Dexter
J. J. Little & Co.
New York 1904.

p. 141

1817 Mr. George Dexter still resides in Albany. He has retired from business and enjoys a ripe old age.

Concordiensis Nov. 1879

March 16, 1921

GEORGE DEXTER, 1817, a resident of Albany, N. Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.
(Died: 1883)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

DEATH OF GEORGE DEXTER.

A Steadfast, Honest Citizen, an Amiable
Friend and a Public Benefactor.

The ranks of old residents of this city are being freely thinned by recurring death. Last evening at eleven o'clock, George Dexter, a life-long resident, for many years a prominent member of the business community, a well-known and highly esteemed citizen, and one of the foremost of the officers and communicants of St. Peter's church, breathed his last after weeks of suffering, at the age of eighty-three years. The multiplicity of his good works, his fealty to what was honest in public affairs, and his affectionate regard for those who called him friend, were distinguishing traits. He will be regretfully missed from among us, and by his death local charities and institutions have lost one of their most reliable and disinterested friends. Mr. Dexter came from New England stock. His father was Sherman Dexter, of Dedham, Mass., who came to this city in the latter part of the last century. It was here on the 21 of July, 1799, that he was born and here he was reared. After being taught the first rudiments of an education in the city schools, he was sent at the age of 16 to Union College from which he graduated with full honors. In his early life he manifested those traits of self-reliance and energy, which enabled him subsequently to be the architect of his own fortunes. In 1827, some years after his graduation from College, he united in marriage with Miss Mary N. Cuyler of this city, and the union proved a most happy one, their domestic life being unmarred by a shadow until her death in 1848. Soon after his marriage he engaged in business with Henry Rawles and James and Archibald McClure at the present stand of McClure & Co. on State St. This was continued for some years when Mr. Dexter withdrew and went into business on his own account at No. 57 State St., two doors below the present location of the Journal office. His establishment was styled "The Druggists and Apothecaries Hall." He continued here doing a successful business until 1850, when he formed a copartnership with J. Nelligar and transferred the title of his establishment to the corner of State and North Pearl street, the old sign put at the time remaining until the remodelling of that portion of the building a few years ago. The copartnership continued for a period of nearly 18 years, when Mr. Dexter, having acquired a comfortable estate by strict application and the practice of those rules of honest, fair dealing which usually bring success to the merchant of integrity and character, he retired from the active pursuits of life to enjoy the rest he had so well earned. Since then he has lived quietly, although always maintaining a lively interest in affairs national, State and municipal. He never aspired to political place or position, but in

1839 and 1840 he yielded to the solicitations of his friends and was elected to represent the old Fifth ward in the Board of Supervisors. In 1848 and 1849 he represented the Sixth ward in the Common Council. These are the only public offices held by him. He actively interested himself in the founding of the Albany Medical College, in 1838, and for a number of years was a member of the Board of Trustees. He had also for many years been connected with the vestry of St. Peter's church, and at his death was its senior warden. Since returning from business it had been his custom to sit daily in a small office which he had arranged for himself adjoining the drug store of Nelligar, on Pearl street, and converse with friends who dropped in to see him. He was an interesting conversationalist, and, possessing a fund of reminiscence, those who were so fortunate as to possess his acquaintance were sure of being interested and edified in the course of a half hour's chat with him. One of the recollections of his early life in which he took great pride in relating was that of his trip up the Hudson on the first voyage of Robert Fulton's steamer. He knew many of the prominent lawyers and others who have figured in the history of Albany since 1820, and he could also vividly describe the visit of Lafayette in 1825 or thereabouts. He was among the few who could truly be spared from our midst, but he passed away in the consciousness of having lived a consistent and fruitful life, and of having left behind the heritage of a name and example of which any man might well be proud.

The deceased leaves surviving him three daughters--- Catharine, Cynthia and Mrs. W. H. Bradford, of New York. The funeral will take place Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from St. Peter's church.

The Albany Evening Journal
June 21, 1883.

GEORGE DEXTER.

THE LATE GEORGE DEXTER.

An Eloquent Tribute to His Memory by
the Rev. Walton W. Battershall.

The Rev. Dr. Walton W. Battershall, rector of St. Peter's church, yesterday morning, in announcing the funeral of the late George Dexter, paid the following eloquent tribute to the senior warden of the church:

This afternoon we repeated the words of faith and hope which the Church has put upon our lips when we bear her children to the grave, and I cannot forbear to utter from this place this morning words of grateful memory and sacred grief touching him whom God has taken to Himself.

George Dexter was not only for many years a vestryman, and at the time of his death seniorwarden of this parish; his life of eighty-three years was to a singular degree identified with the history of this parish. From his baptism in the little stone church that stood underneath the fort in the middle of State street, the first Episcopal church west of the Hudson, what a host of memories concerning the history of this city and this parish--memories fleeting, fast fading for want of record--were gathered up in his life. He remained almost as the last memorial and witness of the quaint, old-time Albany of fifty years ago. He represented much that was best in its type of character and life. The courtesy of the old days, the simple tastes, the spotless integrity, the faith and reverence, the serenity and content and freedom from the push and rush of these more recent days,--all these were conspicuous traits of his character, and entered into the kindly genial flow of his life. He was a man that won your trust and love, and he never betrayed them. The world, the church, the life of the household and friendship and business has need of such men,--men whose fidelity you can lean on as on an oaken staff. They are the moral salt of a community, and their memories are a precious inheritance and an inspiration to gentle and true and loyal living.

But that which gives me the right to speak of him here was something superadded to this, which gave it its grace and beauty. He was a man of reverent, child-love faith who walked humbly before his God, and who loved the church when he bowed before the altar of Christ with a love that was a passion. This old parish of St. Peter's! How dear it was to him! He gave to it of his substance, of his hands and of his heart. It occupied his thoughts and his conversation. All that was sweetest and deepest in his nature went out to it by virtue of the memories which it held, and the labors he had wrought for it, and the great divine truths which it symbolized to him. He is gone, and one more is added to

those honorable names which has made my Rectorship so rich in precious and tearful memories, and which we recall when we bless God's holy name for all his servants departed this life in His faith and fear.

The funeral of the deceased took place yesterday afternoon at two o'clock from St. Peter's church, which was filled with a congregation of our old and representative citizens. The services, which were of a simple and impressive character, were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Battershall, assisted by the Rev. Dr. J. Livingston Reese. The music consisted of "He Giveth His Beloved Sleep," and a closing hymn. The junior warden and vestrymen of the church acted as bearers. The only decoration was two palms on the casket. The remains were interred in the Rural Cemetery.

The Albany Evening Journal
June 24, 1883.

Dexter, George

Class of 1817

From " Dexter Genealogy ".

George Dexter, son of Samuel and Elizabeth(Province) Dexter, was born ~~July 22~~ July 2 1799 at Albany and died July 21 1833. Graduated from Union College 1817. Admitted to the bar but never practised. Married April 5 1827 Mary Magdalen Cuyler(b. Feb. 3 1810 d. Oct. 4 1847) daughter of John C. and Hannah(Maley) Cuyler.

Children: Anna Augusta(b. July 16 1833 d.)

Catherine Cuyler(b. May 4 1837 d.)

Cynthia Reynolds(b. Oct. 14 1839 d. Nov. 3 1893)

Mary (b. June 27 1845 d. Feb. 7 1848)

He was brother of James Dexter, class of 1813.

George Dexter

1817
AB

George Dexter

1817
F.B.