CLASS OF 1811

WILLIAM BLAIN

The sixth pastor (The Goodwill Presbyterian Church of Montgomery) was the Rev. William Blain, who was installed July 27, 1820. He was a graduate of Union College and of Princeton Theological Seminary, and had served in the ministry some fourteen years before commencing his labors here. Like his predecessor, he too found here an irreconcilable faction, which soon withdrew from the church, but in very different grounds. The time had come when the growing village of Montgomery needed a Presbyterian church, and some of the most influential members of that church cherished the thought of removing the old church to the new site. In this they were simply outvoted and peace was restored, though says the historian, "for a time this church severely felt this last exodus." Mr. Blain's pastorate ceased with his death, June 9, 1857, though for some little time he had been incapacitated through bodily infirmity, for the performance of pastoral duties.

FROM History of Orange County  p. 390
E. M. Ruttenber & L. H. Clark
Everts & Peck
Philadelphia  1861.

CLASS OF 1811  WILLIAM BLAIN

Pastor of First Congregational Church of Walkill from April 15, 1820 to April 20, 1822.

History of Orange Co.  p. 457
To Wm. Plaine
of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1811
(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best:)

Sir,—

It is the aim of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the ready aid which they shall impart. This circulate will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known; (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow:—some of the questions, indeed, may not be possible to answer with certainty; others not at all: still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their formness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned:—Obituary Notices; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, Funeral Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations, Business Cards and Advertisements; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c.; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Album of the College Library, to be set apart for "Graduates' Works."

He also requests that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time:—especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, Librarian.

Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.

Specimens of Biographical Sketches for the Proposed Catalogue

John Glidden Brown was born in Quinqueek, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epson, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Holden's High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls; was admitted to the bar in 1821; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoosen, Esq. In 1820 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1822–3; State Senator 1839–40; Member of Congress 1839–41; and Judge of the Superior Court 1841–6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Benslow Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1738; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henslow) Luther; prepared for College at Yorksville Academy, John Albay, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818–20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princetown Theological Seminary in 1823; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1829, at Marlborough, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1835. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Hasleton, Co., 1825–39; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831–40; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the "Commencant's Companion." He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778; in Benton, N. Y.; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College, at High Holme School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Samson, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Payson and Dr. Aaron Pottocar, of Cambridge; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhine, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1812–15, and returned to practice at Othbury in 1816, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830–5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the "Functions of the Brain," and on "Gunshot Wounds."
I. Name. William Blair
   [Let this be written plainly and the middle initials if any]

II. Name of Both Parents; thus:—
   James Blair (American) Blair
   [John and Elizabeth (Smith) Jefferson]

III. Birth Place: 
   Fifeville, Va.
   Birth Day and Year: September 29, 1784.

IV. Various residences and dates: thus—
   Fifeville, New York City, Saratoga.
   [Montgomery County, Va.]

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principal and dates; thus:—
   Academy, Bennington, Vt., 1791-92.
   Grammar School, Saratoga.
   College: 1806-7, 1811-12.

VI. At what College he graduated, and when: 
   Union College, 1811.

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—
   Teaching, Franklin, 1791-92.
   Teaching, Richmond, 1811-12.

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:—
   [Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1812-14, or Law at Albany, N.Y., with Hon. Peter B. Van Buren, 1814-15]

IX. Where he has practiced his profession, with dates; and, in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:—
   [Rensselaer, N.Y., 1815-20; Post, Albany, N.Y., 1820-30; New York City, 1830-41]

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—
   [Merchant, Rensselaer, N.Y., 1820-30; or Farmer, Greeno, N.Y., 1830-51; or Merchant, Galveston, Texas, 1851-61; or Printer, 1861, etc.]

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:—
   [Surgeon of Jefferson Co., N.Y., 1816-18 and 1826-7; Member of Congress, 1st district, N.Y., 1816-17; Member of Assembly, N.Y., 1823-4, &c., &c.]

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited; thus:—
   [Copies are selected for the "Corpus Legum" at College Library]

XIII. The name of his relatives who graduated at Union College, thus:—
   [Mr. James Blair (the same day), the Bachelor of Laws, 1812]

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whom, with dates; thus:—
   [M. D. from Albany Medical College, 1815; or L. L. D., Andover College, 1830 &c.]

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him? 
   [One or two engravings, together with his autograph, are selected for College Library]

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.
   [This may be printed, from Prob. or will, &c., &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions in which case all or additional sheet]

   Montgomery County, Va., March 1851.
   William Blair, Self.
XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

XIX. List of such graduates as may not be widely known; their residences, professions, dates of deaths, &c.; the name and residence, also, of some near friend of the deceased, that further information may be sought for; thus:

WILLIAM BLAIN, '11


From: Princeton Theological Seminary Catalogue
1. Name in full: Reverend William Blain  Class: 1811

   (Give date and place in full)

3. Residences before entering college: Fishkill, Oppenheim N.Y.

4. Prepared for college at: Not known
   (If entering from another college, so state.)

5. Entered: 1807 (Give year, month and class if not freshman) Course: Classical

6. Left college: was graduated with class 1811
   (Give approximate time of leaving)

7. College life. Under each head state kind of activity, any office held, and college year in which active or held office, thus (1) freshman, (2) sophomore, (3) junior, (4) senior.
   a. Athletic teams (class or varsity) Not known
   b. Other activities (member or officer debating team, musical or dramatic association, press club, Concordian or Garaet boards, etc.)

   c. Fraternity, literary or social organizations of which a member.

   d. Class offices
   e. College prizes and honors

8. Study at other institutions after leaving Union (how long and where): Princeton Theological Seminary 1811 to 1814

9. Degrees (with institutions granting them and dates).

10. Class reunions attended: Not known

11. Commencements attended:

12. College reunions and dinners attended: 

13. Member of alumni association (if officer state office and date held): Not known

14. Postgraduate office held in class or college organization (member or officer Graduate Council, Trustee of Union, class president or secretary, etc.): Not known

15. Relatives (open or wife's) at Union (name, relationship, and class): Henry Rutgers Blain, son 1835, Died in 1897, William James Blain, son 1844, Charles Hedge Blain, grandson, 1870.

16. Parents' names in full (with country of ancestry, college, occupation, residence, date of birth and death, and other important facts.)
   a. Father: Not known

   b. Mother

17. Brothers and sisters: (name, date of birth and death, college if other than Union)
   Not known

18. Married: Miss Sarah Tucker of Schenectady N.Y. on: Not known
   (name of wife, date and place of marriage; if wife dead, date of death)

19. Children (name, date of birth, college, if other than Union)

   There were five children of his first marriage, 3 of whom died in infancy. Henry Rutgers Blain, died in 1837. Mary Blain survived her father, but she and Harry both died unmarried. There were 2 children of his 2nd marriage, one died in infancy, the other was William James Blain.
was ordained a minister in October 1816 by Presbytery of Albany.

was Pastor of Churches at Deer Park and Ridgegerry, 1816 to 1820.

" " Congregational Church of Middletown, 1820 to 1824.

of Church at Malta 1824 to 1828. Gold Spring 1828 to 1830.

Pastor of Goodwill Church at Montgomery, Orange County, N. Y.

1830 till his death June 9, 1857.

was frequently a moderator of Hudson Presbytery, and was commissioner

from that Presbytery to the General Assemblies in 1836 and 1837.

President of the Orange County Bible Society. President of Board

of Trustees of Montgomery Academy for many years.

21. Public positions held in civil life (with dates.) (Includes such positions as trustee, director, vestryman, etc.)

22. Military history and titles (with dates). (If in army or navy, enter under 20.) None

23. Professional and scientific organizations of which a member Unknown

24. Social, civic, and literary organizations of which a member Unknown

25. Literary productions (with date of publication and name of publisher) Unknown

25. Religious denomination Presbyterian 27. Political preference Whig

28. Recreations Unknown

29. Other facts or remarks

Mr. Blain attended the Jubilee of President Doctor Nett

in July, 1854; and was the oldest graduate present.

30. Addresses; residential (a), business (b), with (c) dates when occupied. (Check the address to which mail should be sent.)

a.                      b.                      c.

31. Sources of information. A—self; B—X; C—XX; D—X; E—X.

Mr. Blain baptized the writer of the above in infancy.

Use these reference letters in checking any information given above and add date; thus A 11/19/20—information furnished by self Jan.

19, 1926. Use extra pages if necessary, numbering answers to correspond with numbers of questions on sheets. Answer all questions

noting any you might not wish published.

William Graham

1856