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Bayard,
James A. Bayard, who got an honorary degree here in 1827 was the Envoy Extraordinary to Russia.

The red book and this folder seem to confuse him constantly with James A. Bayard '19, who was his son.
JAMES A. BAYARD

was born at Wilmington, Del. He took the full course of the class of 1819 and received his A. M. in 1827. He studied Law at Wilmington, began practice in 1822 and resided in the State of Delaware until 1864, except the years 1844 and 1845 spent in New York City. He was a Federal in his youth, became a Republican or Jacksonian in 1827; was appointed U. S. District Attorney for Delaware in 1836 and again in 1840, resigning in 1843. He was elected Democratic U. S. Senator from Delaware in 1841, again in 1857 and 1863; resigning in 1854 and appointed by the Governor to the same position in 1867. In the Senate he was a moderate advocate of State Rights, opposing the Federal exercise of doubtful powers and favoring liberal construction of unquestioned powers. He dissented from the ordinary Democratic views of Secession as a right, but opposed armed coercion. He died June 13th, 1880, in his 81st year.

BAYARD, James Asheton, Jr. (son of James Asheton Bayard, sr., grandson of Richard Bassett, father of Thomas Francis Bayard, sr., and grandfather of Thomas Francis Bayard, Jr.), a Senator from Delaware; born in Wilmington, Del., November 15, 1799; pursued classical studies; studied law, was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice in Wilmington; United States district attorney for Delaware 1838-1843; elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 1851; reelected in 1857 and 1863, and served from March 4, 1851, to January 29, 1865, when he resigned; resumed the practice of law in Wilmington; appointed in 1867 to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of George Read Riddle; subsequently elected, and served from April 5, 1869, to March 3, 1869; was not a candidate for re-election; delegate to the Democratic National Convention at New York City in 1868; again resumed the practice of law; died in Wilmington, Del., June 13, 1880; interment in the Old Swedes Burial Ground.
James A. Bayard, the second Senator of the line (Of Bayards), is still living at an advanced age. He is quite broken in body and mind, and is seldom seen outside his house, a plain substantial brick building, standing on Market street, the principal business thoroughfare. He lives with two faithful servants, but has the constant care of a married daughter, whose home is just across the street. He was a good lawyer in his time, a fine orator and a cultivated gentleman. His son, James was destined to succeed him, and was accordingly sent to college and bred to the law. But the young man did not turn out well, and the younger son, Thomas, who had been educated for a merchant, his mother having coming of a mercantile family, was put to studying law without the advantage of a collegiate course.

New York Tribune
April 5, 1880
p. 1 col. 4

From an article on Delaware Statesmen.
Wilmington, Del.—June 13.—Ex-Senator James A. Bayard died, at 1 o'clock this morning. He was the son of James A. Bayard, and came of a long line of distinguished public men, several of whom were members of the United States Senate. The late James A. Bayard served first in the Senate from 1851 to 1864, and then resigned, though he had just been elected for a third term. Again in 1867 he was appointed by the Governor of Delaware to fill the unexpired term of Senator Biddle. In 1869 he retired from public life, being succeeded in the Senate by his son, James F. Batard.

While Senator, Mr. Bayard served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and as a member of the Committee on the Library and Public Grounds. During the Rebellion, he was a strong Union man, and gave the administration of President Lincoln an undeviating support. After his retirement from the Senate he continued to reside in Wilmington. He was a vigorous speaker, and his services upon committees were valuable.

New York Tribune
June 14, 1880
p. 2 col. 6.
James Asheton Bayard, senator, was born in Wilmington, Del., Nov. 15, 1799, son of James Asheton Bayard (q. v.), grandson of Dr. James Asheton Bayard, and a direct descendant of Anna Bayard, sister of Peter Stuyvesant. After receiving a classical education, he read law, and on being admitted to the bar, settled for practice in his native city. He rapidly rose in his profession, and during 1837-41 served as U. S. attorney for Delaware. He was elected U. S. senator in 1851 as a Democrat to succeed Sen. John Dales, a Whig, and was re-elected in 1857 and 1863. When, on taking his seat on March 4, of the latter year, he was required to take the "iron clad" oath, he protested on the ground that it was a violation of the constitution and an invasion of the sovereign rights of his state. He then took the oath, but immediately resigned his seat, to which, however, he was again re-elected on the death of George R. Riddle, who had filled out a part of his unexpired term. He served as chairman of the committee on the judiciary, and upon retiring from the senate, March 3, 1869, was succeeded by his son, Thomas F. Bayard (q. v.). Senator Bayard was a man of marked ability, an eminent constitutional lawyer, and was possessed of a fine sense of public duty. He passed the remainder of his life in retirement in Wilmington, Del., where his death occurred June 13, 1880.


Ex-Senator James A. Bayard, for sometime a member of the class of 1819, died at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, on the night of Sunday, June 13. He was a U.S. Senator from 1851 to 1864 when he resigned and from 1867 to 1869 when he surrendered his place to his son.

C. June 1880
Obituary.--Mrs. James A. Bayard.--Among the notable deaths of the last week worthy of record was that of Ann Bayard, widow of James A. Bayard, of Delaware. She died in the city of Philadelphia on Sunday evening, the 10th instant, in the 77th year of her age. Few ladies have ever lived or died in the United States more honorable connected with its political history. Her father, Richard Bassett, was the first United States Senator elected by the State of Delaware. He held his seat from the year 1789 to 1793. Her husban, JAMES A. BAYARD, was elected to represent the State of Delaware in the lower house of Congress from 1797 to 1803; in 1801 he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of France; in 1804 he was elected United States Senator from Delaware. He was re-elected in 1810; in 1813 President Madison appointed him, in connection with John Quincy Adams and Albert Gallatin, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to negotiate a treaty of peace with Great Britain, under the mediation of the Emperor of Russia. Henry Clay and Jonathan Russell were afterwards added to the commission, and together they negotiated the treaty of Ghent in 1814.

In 1715 Mr. Bayard was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Russia. He died the same year, in the 48th year of his age, leaving Mrs. Bayard a widow for nearly forty years.

Richard Bayard, one of her sons, has been twice elected to represent the State of Delaware in the United States Senate, between the years 1836 and 1845, and represented the U.S. Government as Chargee at Belgium, under the administration of Mr. Fillmore; and finally, James A. Bayard, another son, represents the same seat in the U.S. Senate, heretofore occupied so creditably and so long by his grandfather, his father and his brother.

Albany Evening Journal
Dec. 20, 1854
Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 71
the never-to-be-forgotten night of April 14, when President Lincoln was assassinated, and it was a part of the conspiracy to take Mr. Seward's life. By some means his would-be murderer gained an entrance to his room and struck him on the head and face with a knife, but his life was saved by the metallic shield which he wore until his fractured jaw-bone was fully knitted. His son, Frederick, came to his rescue, but was struck down by the assassin. He finally recovered, but ever after carried the ugly marks of both disasters.

In 1867 Mr. Seward concluded the treaty with Russia, by which we gained Alaska for the sum of seven million dollars. He opposed the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, and this act made him unpopular with many in his party. In 1868 he supported General Grant for president, and the following year made a tour of the continent, going as far north as Alaska and south to Mexico. In 1870 he began his journey round the world, accompanied by members of his family. He returned and wrote a volume on these extensive travels, which was edited by his adopted daughter, Olive Risley Seward. Three sons were born to Mr. Seward: Augustus Henry, born 1826, died 1876; graduated at West Point, served in the Mexican war and Civil war; Frederick William, born 1830; William Henry, born 1839, served in the Civil war, and finally held the rank of brigadier-general. He was wounded at Monocacy, and participated in the battle of the Wilderness.

Hon. William H. Seward died at Auburn, New York, October 10, 1872.

HON. JAMES ASHETON BAYARD.

Hon. James A. Bayard, who served as United States senator from Delaware from 1851 to 1870, another who should be enrolled as among the distinguished men who attended Union College, was born November 15, 1799, and died June 13, 1880. He was a native of Wilmington, Delaware, and the son of James Asheton Bayard, who preceded him in the United States senate. He was a student in Union College, and afterward at Princeton and Union colleges, graduating from the latter institution when nineteen years of age. He was admitted to the bar of Delaware in 1822, began to practice under auspicious surroundings, and was still a young man when his reputation led to his being elected one of the counsel for
the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company in the celebrated case of Randall against the company, for breach of contract in constructing their works. The amount involved was more than a quarter of a million dollars in value, and the suit lasted nearly two months. The plaintiff was represented by John M. Clayton, James Rogers, George Read, Jr., and Charles J. Ingersoll, and the company by Attorney-General Robert Frame, James A. Bayard and Walter Jones of Washington. This was an important case, and brought Mr. Bayard increased reputation, and from this time on he was employed in nearly all of the leading cases before the courts until 1843, when he removed to New York, where he practiced law for three years, and then returned to Wilmington and resumed his law practice in that city. It was, however, as a politician and able statesman that Mr. Bayard achieved his greatest distinction. He was at first unsuccessful, twice being defeated in the campaign for congress in 1828 and 1832, when he ran as a Jackson Democrat and the party was in a helpless minority. In 1838 he was again a candidate, but the state senate, then under control of the Whigs, refused to go into joint ballot, and as a result Delaware had but one senator from 1839 to 1841. It was not until 1850 that his political success began. The party to which he belonged then carried the state and he was elected to the United States senate upon the sixteenth ballot, his competitor being Hon. Martin W. Bates. In 1857 he was returned for another term, and again in 1863. He opposed the prescribed "test-oath," but after its adoption by the senate subscribed to it, but immediately resigned his seat. George R. Riddle, who was elected in his place, died soon afterward, and Mr. Bayard consented to serve through his own unexpired term, from April 1, 1867, to March 3, 1869. In 1869 his son, Thomas Francis Bayard, succeeded him from Delaware in the senate. After retiring from office, Mr. Bayard lived a retired life at Wilmington. He was for a long time chairman of the judiciary in the senate. He was an eminent constitutional lawyer, and was highly esteemed for his refined sense of public honor, which was manifested in a notable instance upon his receiving an offer of stock in the Credit Mobilier in 1868, in reply to which he wrote: "I take it for granted that the corporation has no application to make to congress on which I should be called upon to act in an official way, as I could not consistently with my views of duty vote upon any question in which I had a pecuniary interest."

In early life he married Annie, daughter of Thomas Willing Francis, of Philadelphia, whose death occurred in 1864. Their surviving children were: Hon. Thomas Francis Bayard; Mrs. Levi C. Bird, of Wilmington, and Mrs. B. Lockwood, of New York.
JAMES A. BAYARD.

James A. Bayard, the younger, third son of James Asheton Bayard and Anne (Bassett) Bayard, was born in Wilmington, November 15, 1799. He was graduated from Union College at nineteen years of age, and in 1821 was admitted to the Bar. In early life he took an interest in public affairs and rapidly rose to the front rank of his profession. He began his political career as a Jackson Democratic candidate for Congress, in 1828, and to the end of his life was a consistent, earnest and unwavering Democrat. He was United States Attorney for the district of Delaware under President Van Buren, and was elected and re-elected to the United States Senate in 1850, 1856 and 1862.

He strenuously opposed the adoption of the "test oath" for Senators in 1864, and having taken it to disprove the unpatriotic imputation it implied as to him personally, he resigned from the Senate in resentment of the affront. Upon the death of George Read Riddle, his successor, in 1867, he was appointed by Governor Saulsbury to fill the vacancy until the next session of the Legislature. On January 19, 1869, both he and his son, Thomas F. Bayard, were elected by the General Assembly as United States Senators, the one to fill out his own unexpired Senatorial term, and the other for the full term as his father's successor, so that at noon of the same day March 4, 1869, the father retired from Senatorial life, as his son entered it in his stead, thus introducing in three successive generations, a representative of the Bayard family to Senatorial honors and duties, an incident unprecedented in the annals of the Senate and country.

In the long list of eminent lawyers that have sprung from Delaware there have been none more renowned than James A. Bayard, the younger, and in fact all of the old traditions point to him as possibly the most illustrious member of the Bar that Delaware has produced. His public and private life were marked by unswerving fidelity to principle, and strict rectitude in the performance to all his responsible duties.

On July 8, 1823, he married Anne Francis, daughter of Thomas Willing Francis and Dorothy (Willing) Francis. His wife's father was the grandson of Tench Francis, Attorney-General of the Province of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bayard died in Wilmington, June 13, 1880, and the remains of the honored statesman were interred in the family vault in the graveyard of the Old Swedes Church. His children were James A., who died at the age of 23 years, Mary Ellen, married Augustus Van Cortlandt Schermerhorn, Thomas Francis, Sophia H., George H., Mabel, married firstly, Dr. John Kent Kane, and secondly, Levi C. Bird, Esq., and Florence, who married Major Benoni Lockwood.

History of Delaware p.372 vol.3  Full page portrait.
Henry C. Conrad
Wilmington, Del. 1908