1997

AP. 6, 1857.

To I. L. Fabrikow, of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1787
(or, if deceased, to the friend or relatives who knew him best):

Sir,—

It is the wish 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 data which shall be imparted. This circulator 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, it 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 farness.

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, etc.; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Archives of the College Library, to be kept apart for the "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 biennially once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, Librarian.

UNION COLLEGE, Schenectady, N. Y.

SPECIMENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Gildred Brown was born in Quinnipiac, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Gildred) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Holderness 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 E. Van Rensselaer, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1822-6; State Senator 1835-8; Member of Congress 1839-41; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842-6. 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 LL. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Honshaw Luthor was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1796; parents, Joseph and Madeleine (Henshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Alfred, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1815-16, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1818; and was ordained Sept. 22, 1819, at Marlboro, N. J.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1824. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Haslet, Conn., 1825-30; 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 "Communionist'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 Harmon and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College at High Holmes School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Saco, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Phyle and Dr. Abram Potocar, of Camermills; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rime, in 1800. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813-15; and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1816, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1829-30, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the "Functions of the Brain," and on "Genuine Weeds."

N. B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and authentic as possible; but when doubtful let them be marked thus (1).

2. When the person is deceased, let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge; if he have been free, let that be stated.

3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.

4. In cases where this sheet has not been sufficient to contain all the facts to be set, add another of the same size, if possible, bearing an inner margin of not less than one inch all around.

5. In cases where no answers to this circulator shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and therefore, not always authentic.
INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOREGOING SKETCHES.

1. Name. John Lansing Labriskie

2. Names of both Parents; thus:—
   John Labriskie & Helen (Landis)

3. Birth Place. Albany
   Birth Day and Year. March 4, 1797

4. Various residences and dates; thus:
   [Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-18; Albany, N. Y., 1818-20; New York City, 1826-34]
   Ibid., 1846 to 1850.

5. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:
   [Albany Academy: Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1812-15; Hackensack Academy under Alexander Hamilton, 1789 to 1793; Union College, 1797 to 1802]

6. At what College he graduated, and when.
   UNION COLLEGE IN 1797

7. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:
   [Teaching, Washington, D.C., 1847-48, or Merchant’s Clerk, New York City, 1849-51]
   He immediately commenced the history of

8. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:
   [Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1829-32; or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmonus Bleecker, 1840-2]
   Theology at Schenectady, with Rev. J. D. Conner, 1797 to 1799.

9. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and, in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:
   [Episcopal, Somerville, N. J., 1829-32; or Prebend, Albany, N. Y., 1832-35; New York City, 1835-36]
   St. Mary’s, Renshaw, N. Y., 1832 to 1835. Milestone, N. Y., 1835 to 1850

10. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:
    [Merchant, Hackensack, N. J., 1829-32; or Farmer, Genesee, N. Y., 1833-34; or Manufacturer, Schenectady, N. Y., 1841-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, etc.]
    NO OTHERS
XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:
   [Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N.Y., 1839-41 and 1842-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N.Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N.Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]

None

XII. The literary or scientific works he has written or edited.
   [Copies are solicited for the "Graduate Alcove" in College Library.]

None

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.
   His son 2d John B. Labrieckis of Schenectady graduated at Union College in 1828.

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:
   [M.D., from Albany Medical College 1845, or LL.D., Amherst College, 1820, &c.]

None

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

None

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.
   [Read any printed notice, biographical sketch, funeral sermon, &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions, in which case add an additional sheet]

He died at his residence at Schenectady on the 15th day of August, 1850, of an attack of apoplexy in which he had suffered for six weeks. He retained his mental energies until his death, and continued in the performance of his duties. His last words were made to advise his colleagues to call a colleague (the Rev. Roon Schout), who, according to the funeral arrangements, was installed in the Tabernacle after the funeral of the deceased.
XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life. &c., &c.

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

The first of his family in this country was Albert Zabriskie, a native of Poland, a descendant of a family of that name who for many years had borne an active part in the political troubles of their country. He landed at Nantucket from the Fox in August 1862. He purchased of the Indians large tracts of land near New Haven, N.Y., which he continued to hold by the proprietary government after the Thirteen States were admitted to the Union. Many of his descendants still reside there.

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:


[Signature]

L. L. C.

Aug. 2, 1895
The Rev. John L. Zabriskie preached at Milestone for the first time in February, 1810, and took charge of the church (Reformed Dutch), moving his family into the village in May, 1811. He was installed by Dr. Cannon, and remained with the church as one of her most faithful pastors until he died, August 15, 1850, 39 years and 3 months.

Shortly after Mr. Zabriskie's settlement here, early in 1812, the Consistory again provided a parsonage property for themselves, on the plot now occupied by Dr. Fred. Blackwell, bought from Dan. Disborough, at a cost of $2232. But this place was occupied only three or four years, when Mr. Zabriskie purchased a property of his own on the hill, where he resided until his death.

During the first eighteen years of his ministry here he preached in the old church, but it had long been felt that the building was too small for the growing congregation, and repeated efforts had been made to remedy the evil. Therefore, in 1827, a new church edifice was erected, in size, 70 by 55 feet. The cornerstone was laid June 9, 1828; the church was dedicated on Christmas Sabbath, 1828.

Mr. Zabriskie's ministry was very successful. There was one remarkable revival at which he received 108 on profession at a single communion. He received nearly 500 on profession and 162 by certificate during his ministry. His last report to General, in the spring of 1850, makes the church membership to be then 291, and 176 families. The congregation was indeed built up to great strength in members during his long pastorate here. The membership had nearly trebled.

Father Zabriskie died August 15, 1850 at the age of seventy-one. His dust lies in the adjoining church-yard, where his memorial monument reminds the passer-by of the venerable "Minister of God" of more than half a century's service.

Dr. Messler says of him,—"He was one of the most laborious and successful pastors in Somerset County. He preached and lectured more, visited more families, and attended more carefully to all his public duties than almost any other minister of his time. He was considered by all an example not only, but a mentor in his official life."

FROM History of Hunterdon & Somerset Counties, N.J. pp 291-2
James P. Snell, Compiler
Everts & Peck
Philadelphia
1861.
When Dr. Schureman left Millstone the church seemed to be almost in despair. It was a great loss indeed; but that kind Providence which watched over the interests of the yet feeble congregation interposed and gave relief. The attention of the people was directed to the Rev. John L. Zabriskie, settled over the united churches of Greenbush and Winantskill, near Albany. He preached at Millstone for the first time in the month of February, 1810, and took charge of the church, moving his family in the month of May, 1811. He was installed by Dr. Cannon, and he remained with the church as one of her most faithful pastors until he died Aug. 16th, 1850--39 years and three months.

John L. Zabriskie was, it is said, of Polish extraction, a descendant of Albert Saborowiski, who arrived in this country in the Fox, in 1662, and of the fourth generation; born March 4th, 1779. He graduated at Union College, Schenectady, in the very first class, in 1798; studied theology with Dr. Derick Romeyn, and was licensed by the Classis of Rensselaer in 1801. He settled as successor to the Rev. J.V.C.Romeyn almost immediately at Greenbush and Winantskill, and continued to serve these churches faithfully and acceptably for eight years. The church at Millstone was comparatively weak, having only about 70 members in its communion and 84 families, when he consented to take charge of it. After preaching eighteen years in the old church, he succeeded finally in inducing his people to build a new one, the present building--sufficiently commodious and convenient for all who desire to attend the services in it, at least at the present time.

The present writer preached his funeral sermon, and afterward gave in Corwin's Manual the following as his conception of what the man was, what he deserved to be esteemed, and how he had labored in the Gospel for so many years.

(See Corwin's Manual)

He sleeps in view of the front door of his church, and his children have inscribed upon his monument these words: "In memory of John Lansing Zabriskie, born March 4th, 1779; died, August 16th, 1850. For more than 50 years a minister of God: from 1811 until his death, pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Millstone. Pure in life, sincere of purpose, with zeal, perseverance, and prudence, devoted to the service of his Master. Here amid the loved people of his charge, his earthly remains await the resurrection of the just." On his wife's monument is written: "Sarah Barrea, wife of Rev. J.L. Zabriskie, born May 11th, 1786; died December 21st, 1856."

Eight Memorial Sermons pp. 281-283
(Forty Years at Raritan)
Abraham Messler (Class of 1821)
New York 1873.
The following data taken from Corwin's Manual of the Reformed (Dutch) Church in America

Sent in by W. E. Griffis (Acting Prof. 1884), Feb 2, 1921

1797

JOHN LANSING ZABRISKIE, was born in Albany, March 4, 1779. After his graduation from Union College in 1797, he studied theology under Rev. Romeyn, pastor of the First Reformed Church in Schenectady. Mr. Zabriskie was licensed by the classis of Albany. He served as pastor at Greenbush and Wynants Kill, 1801, 1811; and at Millstone, 1811-50. His influence in this region was profound and powerful. He died August 15, 1850. He was a trustee of Rutgers College, elected in R 11.

*JOHN LANSING ZABRISKIE.*

Born at Albany, N. Y., March 4, 1779. A.B. (Union, 1797).

Studied under D. Romeyn. Licensed by Classis of Albany, 1800.


*JEREMIAH LOTT ZABRISKIE.* Class 1863.


JOHN L. ZABRISKIE

Married:—Last evening, by the Rev. Dr. Livingston, the Rev. John L. Zabriskie, of Greenbush, to Miss Sarah Barrea, of this city.—The Spectator (N.Y. City) May 26, 1803. (Published under column dated May 23, Monday).

During his long pastorate at Millstone, he maintained his influence and his standing unto the end. He was a man of many excellences; kind, social, unaffected, and sincerely and zealously pious; a gentleman of the old school, simple in his tastes, unostentatious in his life, and unsophisticated in his daily conduct. All who knew him loved him, and those who knew him best esteemed him most.

He was one of the most laborious and successful pastors in Somerset County. He preached and lectured more, visited more families, and attended more carefully to his public duties than almost any other minister of his time. He was considered by all an example not only, but a monitor in his official life.

His talents were good. His mind was more judicious, solid, and safe than brilliant, or endowed with genius. He was a wise man, a sensible man, a man to be depended upon. His counsel was judicious, and no one ever erred much in following it. Hence, he himself made no mistakes of importance, had no controversies, and while his friends were numerous, his enemies belonged to those whom his principles and his holy life necessarily brought in opposition to him.

He was an excellent preacher; and though he seldom wrote his sermons, they were solid, sensible, full of evangelical thought, and listened to with profit by all the earnest-hearted and godly in his congregation. His knowledge of the gospel was full, distinct, and clear; and when he had discussed any one of its doctrines, his hearers felt that they had had very important matters brought to their consideration, in a way which was calculated to impress their minds and edify their hearts. Few men could speak more judiciously and appropriately, from the impulse of the moment, on any given subject. Often there was a severity, benevolence, and directness which could not fail to be highly pleasing.

Then he was a social man, and in his social intercourse would astonish and excite you by his wit, his sarcasm, and even crottery; but this was only occasionally, and when he seemed to be carried out of his ordinary sphere. Habitually he was grave, thoughtful, and thought not reserved, by no means a facetious or light man.

His life was unshaded even by a breath of evil. No one doubted his piety, or the sincerity of his denominations, when he repudiated vice or reproved iniquity.

By his simple habits and economy, while in the receipt of only a small stipend, he was able to accumulate a large estate, and leave it as an inheritance to his children. This, however, resulted chiefly from the early possession of his own patrimony, managed with prudence and care, and not from any savings out of his salary. In a word, he was a good man, useful in his day, and he has left a name which will have a savor of excellence for many generations, among these whose welfare he promoted, and whose fathers and mothers he led in the way of life.—Rev. Dr. Ab. Mestizer.

Union College Biography

Class 1797-- Zabriskie John L.

Class 1823 - Zabriskie John Barren-son of John L. Excellent steel engraving of John B.

Class 1823 - Lott John A. Steel Engraving of J.A.L

Also Engraving of J.L. Zabriskie Homestead from which one of the first three graduates came to Union College.

These pictures and sketches are in the family Genealogical Records of the Zabriskie family—copied which is in the N.Y. Gen. & Diog. Soc. Library at 226 West 50th St., N.Y. City.

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Zabriskie (Rev) John Transcending
Union College, Class 1797 - (Age 18)
Born, Albany Nov. 4, 1779 -
Died, Millbrook, N. Y. Pastor Refd
Dutch Church at Millbrook for 40 yr.
Descended of Albertus Zabriskie, a Pole who came to Manhattan on
the Fox in 1662 and had large
land patent near Hackensack. VT.
The age of Albertus (John Barre)
(wife last name) was in the clear.
Albertus A. 1823 at Union College
at Union Library had an engraving
of John B. Zabriskie - ordering of
Rev. John B. Zabriskie - a grandson of
Rev. Transcending Zabriskie who
was a Refd. Dutch Church minister (1830-40).
Reverend John Lansing Zabriskie of the class of 1797 at Union, graduated at the Seminary in 1800. The record of him seems to be complete except for the place of his death. From New Brunswick Theological Seminary.
Trustee appointed in
1811 REV. JOHN LANSING ZABRISKIE, Millstone, N. J. Died 1850

Born at Albany, N. Y., Mch. 4, 1779. A. B. (Union, 1797).
Studied theology under D. Romeyn, 1800. Dutch Reformed clergy-
man. Died, Aug. 15, 1850.

Rutgers College Catalogue
1766-1916
p. 13