DAVID BURT

Was born November 7, 1777, in Longmeadow and settled in Schenectady, N. Y., about the year 1803 and was manager of a cotton mill there. He was much interested in the improvements of the day. It is related that he was at a meeting where the plans for bringing the track of the Albany and Schenectady railroad into the latter city were shown, this being the first steam railroad charter in the United States. The plan proposed and finally adopted was the inclined plane, the cars being let down and drawn up the plane by means of a stationary engine. After looking over the plans, Mr. Burt said, "Gentlemen, why not go up the valley?" This question brought from the engineer in charge the sarcastic query, "Mr. Burt are you a civil engineer?" Not many years after the ridiculed idea was realized, for the track was changed to the valley where the four tracks of the New York Central and Hudson River railroad now runs.

The writer of this well remembers, when a boy, seeing here and there along this abandoned engine hill road, now a street, the blocks of stone upon which the tracks had been laid.

Judge James Burt of Dubuque, Iowa, was a son of David.

Daniel, born 1790, in Longmeadow, the youngest of this large family, learned the trade of coach making at Suffield, Conn., soon after joining his brother David at Schenectady and becoming established there. They were associated together in the management of the "Old Cotton Factory", and later they were in mercantile business. They were interested and active in every matter pertaining to the highest welfare of the places where they dwelt. Daniel was for twenty-five years an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, and when, at the age of sixty-eight, he died there was sincere mourning over a good man.

David and Daniel both married wives from old Dutch families, whose ancestors had worthily borne their part in the exciting history of the Netherlands.

FROM Life and Times of Henry Burt of Springfield
Henry M. Burt & Silas W. Burt

Judge James Burt, Union 1827.
We are trying to unravel the sixteen Burts in the register, beginning with David in 1806. A few of these very forst names were, doubtless, Academy students but got into the Union register in some way, as e.g., the Stewart boys, whose father was at Fort Hunter in the Indian Mission. Joe thinks that the first Burts who came to Schenck settled here in 1803 and he may be right. However, Sweer Theunis van Velsen who married Marijje Wemp (both slain in 1690 Massacre) built a mill here on Mill Lane (where Van Curley Hotel now is) about the year 1662, then sold it to the Dutch Church and this body sold it to David Burt and John J. Peek in 1800, after holding it for 120 years. I well recall this old mill. Our 1806 David Burt was likely his son, as maybe was Seth Union '10 and Aaron '13 and other early Burt graduates. And it looks as if James Burt '27 may have been one of the first to get free tuition at Union.
Burt David. - Data already in archives. - Union Class 1806. - Hon grad. About some of the Burts

Ent from Longmeadow, Mass fr which place came the many Burts who lived later in Schmu. - some of them Union men. - Last res Schmu where he died Nov. 24, 1850 aged 73 yrs. He united with 1st Dutch Ch in Feb. 1840.
Class of 1806 (?)  

DAVID BURT:

David Burt was born November 7, 1777, in Longmeadow, and settled in Schenectady, N.Y., about the year 1803, and was manager of a cotton mill there. He was much interested in the improvements of the day. It is related that he was at a meeting where the plans for bringing the track of the Albany and Schenectady railroad into the latter city were shown, this being the first steam railroad charter in the United States. The plan proposed and finally adopted was the inclined plane, the cars being let down and drawn up the plane by means of a stationary engine. After looking over the plans, Mr. Burt said: "Gentlemen, why not go up the valley?" This question brought from the engineer in charge the sarcastic query, "Mr. Burt are you a civil engineer?" Not many years after the ridiculed idea was realized, for the track was changed to the valley where the four tracks of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad now runs.

The writer of this well remembers, when a boy, seeing here and there along this abandoned engine hill road, now a street, the blocks of stone upon which the tracks had been laid. (W.N. Bailey, many times rode on these stones.)

Judge James Burt of Dubuque, Iowa, was a son of David. (Judge Burt was a member of the Class of 1827.)

Daniel, born 1790, in Longmeadow, the youngest of this large family, learned the trade of coach making in Suffield, Conn., soon after joining his brother at Schenectady and becoming established there. They were associated together in the management of the "Old Cotton Factory," and later they were in mercantile business. They were interested and active in every matter pertaining to the highest welfare of the places where they dwelt. Daniel was for twenty-five years an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and when, at the age of 68, he died there with was sincere mourning over a good man.

David and Daniel both married wives from old Dutch families, whose ancestors had worthily borne their part in the exciting history of the Netherlands.

FROM: Life and Times of Henry Burt of Springfield
Henry W. Burt & Silas W. Burt
Clark W. Bryan Co.,
Springfield, Mass.
1893.
This same book has this to say of James Burt:

"His grandfather on his mother's side owned the ground on which Union College stands and in deeding it to the college authorities, he made a provision for it. He was born Feb. 8, 1786 and graduated from Union College in 1810. After teaching school in parts of 1811 and 1812, he entered the ministry and very successful in establishing churches in western New York."

1810 Seth Burt
Son of Elijah Burt, of East Longmeadow, Mass.; and brother of David Burt, Class of 1806. He was born Feb. 8, 1786 and graduated from Union College in 1810. After teaching school in parts of 1811 and 1812, he entered the ministry and was very successful in establishing churches in western New York.

1818 William Skinner Burt
1854 James Burt
1860 John Peek Burt

Note: If I am not mistaken.

---


Union College Burts
Class—Name—Entered from—Last Res. Died
1806—David—Cong. [Mass.]
18—Seth—Cong. [Mass.]
13—Baron—Schuyler—[Schuyler, Mass.]
18—Rev. S. — Will. [Kinderhook, Mass.]
22—Rev. W. — Will. [Kinderhook, Mass.]
27—Tayler—Schuyler—[Schuyler, Mass.]
37—Addison—Syracuse—[Syracuse]
38—Martin—[Syracuse]
44—Oliver—[Syracuse]
45—Edgar A. [Hof]—[Syracuse]
49—Silas W.—Kinderhook—[Kinderhook]
54—James—[Kinderhook]
55—John—[Kinderhook]
60—John P.—[Potsdam]
65—G. W. —[Syracuse]
74—Uri—[Albany]

W. H. P. DAILEY
POTTERSVILLE, N. Y.
CLASS OF 1806

DAVID BURT

David Burt died in 1850.

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 363