

1827

George P. Barker

Sketch of his life in

"Biographies"

By George J. Bryan

Pub. Buffalo

1886.

Copy in College Library.

CLASS OF 1827

GEORGE PAYSON BARKER

Born in Rindge, New Hampshire, October 25, 1807; died in Buffalo, January 27, 1848. was educated at Amherst and Union colleges, graduating from the latter in 1827. While attending Union College he studied law in the office of Alonzo C. Paige, author of Paige's Chancery Reports. After his graduation he removed to Buffalo and entered the office of Stephen G. Austen. Upon his admission to the bar in 1830 he became Mr. Austen's partner. In 1835 he associated himself with John T. Hudson, and in 1837 he organized the law firm of Barker, Hawley & Sill, with Seth C. Hawley and Seth E. Sill, which in 1839, by the retirement of Mr. Hawley, became Barker & Sill. Mr. Barker enjoyed a high reputation at the bar of western New York, and his career gave promise of great distinction when it was suddenly cut short by death. He was active in politics as a democratic orator and leader. He served in the assembly in 1836, was nominated for congress in 1837 but declined, was a candidate for mayor of Buffalo in 1840, and was chosen attorney-general of the state in 1843. As a lawyer his strength was mainly as an advocate before a jury.

History of the Bench and Bar of New York Vol. 1 p. 255
New York History Co.
New York
1897

CLASS OF 1827

GEORGE PAYSON BARKER

Born Rindge, N. H., 1804
Amherst College 1824-25
Graduated Union College 1827
Lawyer, Buffalo, N. Y.
Attorney General, New York State
married-----.
Supposed to have died between 1847-50.

Biog. Record Alumni
Amherst College
1883.

non-grad p. 12

27
1834

GEORGE P. BARKER

MARRIED:-At Norwich, Conn., on the 24th ult. by the
Rev. Mr. Dickinson, George P. Butler, esq., district
attorney, of Buffalo, to Miss Abby, daughter of
Benjamin Colt, esq.

Albany Argus
July, 17, 1834.

CLASS OF 1827

George Payson Barker

Was a brilliant lawyer with a wonderful power of oratory; entered Amherst at sixteen; went to Union College in 1826; graduated in 1827; admitted to the bar in 1830;

Representative in the Legislature in 1836

Accepted commission of Captain in the militia and in two years was Brigadier-General, 1839.

He joined a law firm in Buffalo, N. Y., and in 1842 was elected Attorney-General of New York State.

William Cullen Bryant said of him: "Gen. Barker was a man of fine talents and his career as a public man was highly honorable, also his abilities, his integrity, and his courage."

He married 1834 Abby Coit, born June 5, 1806.

Issue:

George Payson, born Dec. 24, 1835; died Jan. 28, 1868.

Sarah born -----; died -----
m. Edward N. Gibbs, Sept. 5, 1867.

Barker Genealogy
Elizabeth Frye Barker
Frye Publishing Co.
New York
1927.

p. 248

GEORGE P. BARKE⁴, 1827, of Buffalo, N.Y., was a member of the Adelpic Society.
Adelpic Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1848)

In the fall of 1841 I was in Buffalo at a Democratic meeting addressed by George P. Barker, who had won a reputation for a style of oratory like that ascribed to John Van Buren. Tall, graceful, with a kindling eye and clarion voice, Barker's speech swept the audience along like an overflowing river. The annexation of Texas was beginning to loom threateningly upon the horizon. The Democracy generally were favoring the scheme. Barker was suspected of unsoundness on the question. A few Whigs had gone in with the throng. One of them, in the hope of annoying Barker, who was dashing forward in his usual brilliant manner, cried out, "Are you in favor of annexing Texas to strengthen the slave power of the country?" Turning to his questioner, but not pausing in his speech, Barker threw in the reply, as if it were a parenthesis, "All the world for freedom; Salt River for the Whigs." This dally silenced the Whig, and drew cheers from the Democrats.

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The Barnburners were the Girondists of the Democracy.

Among the names is that of George P. Barker.

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Random Recollections
Henry B. Stanton
Harper and Brothers
New York
1887

CLASS OF 1827.

GEORGE P. BARKER

Graduated at Union College in 1827, and the same year commenced the study of the law in the office of Stephen G. Austin, in Buffalo, with whom he became associated in business, upon his admission to the Bar in 1830. Before that time he has attracted public attention by his superior oratorical powers, manifested in the legal contests in the minor courts, and in his active participation in the political contests of the time. Not only had he risen to the front rank at the Bar, but became the acknowledged leader of the Democratic party and in 1831, at the age of twenty-four, was its candidate for the Assembly. In 1832 he was appointed District Attorney of the county, and in the discharge of the duties of the office, laid the foundation for a higher legal position. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1834, but in 1835 was elected to the Assembly of the State, notwithstanding the fact that his party were in a large minority in the county. He acquired great legislative reputation and popularity while in the Assembly and took a leading position upon the important question then exciting the public mind. In 1842 he was elected Attorney-General of the State, and honorably discharged the duties of his high position, and on his retirement was again appointed District Attorney of the county, which position he held until his death in 1848, at the early age of forty-one. Mr. Barker was distinguished by his commanding presence and winning and courteous manner; in personal popularity he was, perhaps, without a rival in the State. He was a ready and eloquent speaker, who felt and made others feel what he asserted, yet he was none the less a well-read lawyer and an able and judicious counselor.

FROM History of the City of Buffalo and Erie County, N.Y. p. 469, vol. 2
H. Perry Smith
D. Mason & Co.
Syracuse 1884.

CLASS OF 1827

GEORGE P. BARKER

Graduated from Union College in 1827, and in the same year began the study of law in the office of Stephen G. Austin in Buffalo, with whom he later formed a partnership. His admission to the bar took place in 1830. Before that date he had attracted attention by his eloquence and power as an orator. He early became a leader of the local Democratic party, and in 1831, at the age of 24, was its candidate for the Assembly. In 1832 he was appointed District Attorney, in which office he laid the foundation for his high reputation of later years. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1834, but in 1835 was elected to the Assembly, where his party was in a large minority. In 1842 he was elected Attorney General of the State and honorably and ably discharged the duties of the high office. On his retirement he was again appointed District Attorney of this county, which office he held until his death in 1848, at the early age of 41 years.

FROM Descriptive History of Erie County Vol. 1. p.703
Truman C. White
The Boston History Co.
1898.

1827

17.13,

George Payson Barker

1827

A.B.

George Payson Barker