

Richmond King June 1855

1807

To Rev. Adam Empire ^{D.D.} of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1807

(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 circular 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 fewness.

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 Aleeve 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 Quinnebeck, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderbergh 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 Hoesen, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832-5; State Senator 1836-8; 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 L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818-20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marbletown, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Haselton, 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 "Communicant'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 Suncook, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Potecar, of Camerville; 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 1813-15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, 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."

- 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 (?).
- 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 but one fact, let that be sent.
- 3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.
- 4. In case this sheet be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the same size, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one inch for binding.
- 5. In cases where no answers to this circular 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.

I. Name. Adam Empire (Quackenboss)
[Let this be written plainly and the middle names in full.]

II. Names of both Parents; thus: - John & Anna Empire
[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

III. Birth Place. Schenectady N. York Birth Day and Year. Sept 25 1745.

IV. Various residences and dates; thus: - Schenectady to 1748. near the
[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New York City, 1830-34.]
Little Fall, Herkimer Co. N. Y. to 94, Schenectady 1807.
Rhinebeck 1808. Hempstead L. I. 1811. Wilmington N. C. 1814.
West Point N. Y. 1816. Williamsburg Va. 1836. Raleigh N. C. 1837. Richmond Va. 1853. near R. D. till now.

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus: -
[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1815-17.]
In the School of Richard Wiggins Schenectady

VI. At what College he graduated, and when. Union College 1807.

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus: - Teaching & studying
[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1847-48, or Merchant's Clerk, New York City, 1819-31.]
simultaneously, at Rhinebeck as Private Tutor in the family of Hon. Tho. Tillotson then Secy of State. Hempstead, as Assistant in Classical Academy of Rev. Seth Hart.

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus: -
[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1829-37 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.]
Theology at Rhinebeck & Hempstead - privately, with the occasional advice of Mr. Hobart in the years of 1807 - 9 when he was ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church & soon after admitted to the Priesthood.

IX. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus: -
[Epis. Somerville, N. J., 1827-30; Pres. Albany, N. Y., 1830-37; New York City, 1830-34.]
L. I. 1809-11. Wilmington N. C. 1811-14. West Point N. Y. 1814-16. Wil. N. C. 1816-27. Williamsburg Va. 1827-36. Raleigh N. C. 1836-7. Richmond Va. 1837-53. near Richmond retired from duty - being too infirm to labor ever since.

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus: - Always had double duties those of teaching & of the Ministry. Teacher, Academy Hempstead, Wilmington & Richmond. Superintendent High School Raleigh N. C. Chaplain Military Academy West Point N. Y. & also Prof. Ethics, History & Geography. do. President Mrs. Mary College Williamsburg Va. at the time above stated in Art. 4.

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus: -
[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1820-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st District, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited. Remarks on the doctrine of Modern Universalism - Discourses on Immersion & Infant Baptism - Two other works exist, only in Manuscript. Remarks & Discourses are out of print no copy to be had I long since sent a copy of each to the College Library.

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College. Morgan & James Phil. Prof. Classics, University Wm & Mary Williamsburg Va.

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, 1850, &c.]
D. D. University No. Carolina 1828.

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him? An engraved Portrait I cannot afford; I send a Daguerreotype & a Photograph.

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.
[Send 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.]

Sect. 17. His Parents being poor, he with but little assistance from them & other friends, was enabled to educate himself by teaching & by other labors. Entering College unexpectedly, on the fall of 1803, before he was prepared, to pass an examination, upon all the necessary preparatory studies; he became an intense student, during 18 hours, out of every 24, giving only 3 1/2 to sleep. Being naturally of delicate constitution, both his health & eyes, soon failed under this effort; & he was obliged afterwards, according to the advice of his kind friend Prof. Benj. Allen, to give six hours nightly to repose. Being always, as far as practicable, a most laborious student, his eyes were again overtasked by one night labors in 1807, & so severely broken down, that he did not recover the full use of them in 7 years. - Wilmington to life because the cl...

male threatened to prove fatal to him if he remained. At West Point, he contracted a pectoral affection in 1814, which by the fall of 1816, reduced him to the verge of the grave. Seeking at the South a more congenial climate, his eyes were again almost destroyed, in 1818. From that shock they have never fully recovered. For nearly 3 years, he was confined to a dark room; except on Sunday, & at other times, when official duty called him out. At during the former years, so during 10 years now; besides constant slow fevers, he daily & incessantly suffered, in his head & eyes, & extending through his arms & shoulders, pains, that a large part of the time, were intensely excruciating; but which moderating gradually, nearly ceased at last after 1827. But as the pains during the last 18 years, were always daily exacerbated, in proportion as the eyes were used or exposed to light, by day or night, so during all that time, all close thought, & all mental effort & attention, occasioned pain & suffering, just as soon & intense, as did the direct use, or exposure of the eyes to light or heat. This same morbid, nervous sensibility, has continued more or less, ever since; so that though now, ordinarily free from much pain, he has been able to write very few new sermons, since 1818; & though daily looking his eyes, to the extreme point of endurance & of safety, he was barely enabled, with the aid of carefully prepared extemporaneous discourses; to discharge, from year to year, the double office of Academic or Collegiate & of pastoral duty: both of which his circumstances, rendered necessary, & the former of which, his feeble health & infirmities, compelled him to resign in 1845, while the latter, he with great difficulty continued till 1853.

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 death, &c.; the name and residence, also, of some near friend of the deceased, that further information may be sought for; thus:—

[John Orton Smith, Banker, Chicopee, Mass., died 1948. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]

pleased greatly to reduce his abilities & his usefulness; & to unfit him for all higher stations, & larger spheres of duty during the rest of his life. It pleased Heaven however, in the face of all, to call him to the residence of Wm. W. H. Keany College, to the Professorship of Sacred Letters, Logic & Ethics, & also to the Rectorship of Bruton Parish Williamsburg Va. all of which duties, though laborious, he still felt able through God's help to accomplish; because he had long been, more or less familiar with them all. He therefore accepted this call, though compelled to refuse some other offers, nor was the case materially altered, when after voluntarily resigning, 1st The Presidency of Wm. & Mary College, on account of the annually returning sickness of himself & his family; & 2^d The Episcopal High School in Raleigh; which he unexpectedly found to be a speculation upon borrowed capital, & verging to its ruin. He in 1837, organized & took charge of a new Congregation in Richmond Va. This Church however, having become

large & flourishing, while his own infirmities & his abilities had increased; he was in 1853, obliged to resign - & being no longer competent to public Ministerial duties, he retired to private life. Blessed be God! for so long & so much beyond all reasonable expectations, continuing his forbearance & loving kindness, to a creature so feeble, so diseased, & so unworthy of the least of his mercies. To Him, with the Holy Spirit, be the Glory, through Christ Jesus.

Sept. 18. My Great Grand-father, Johannes Empie (or John Empie, as the name has been Anglicised in this Country) was born in Germany, ^{in the reign of Queen Anne,} & emigrated to this Country, when my Grand-father Adam Empie was young. Holding a large tract of land, by Patent, he at first settled in Stone, Natick, but harassed by the Can. Indians, French & Indians, the family afterwards moved to Schenestady, where my Father John Empie was born in 1759. My Grand-father Adam Empie died in 1776, & in 1778, my Father married his third wife, who under Providence, gave birth to the subject of this sketch, in 1785.

On my Father's side therefore, I am of German descent, but on that of my Mother, I am now Dutch: for the Quackembos family, was from Holland, the Empie family was originally Lutheran, but after they settled in Schenestady, having access to no other Church & being strictly pious - they united themselves with the reformed Dutch in which & the Presbyterian, I was educated: but from which, the systematical Calvinism of their Catechism, & Confessions of faith, had repelled me, before I had become acquainted with the teachings & standards of the Protestant Episcopal Church. My own Parents & family, I should here add, were always strictly & devoutly pious.

My Parents had four Children (besides myself), two of whom died young; while my two Sisters, Catherine & Mary, lived to the age of between 60 & 70 years. Thank God, that their only Son, was disposed & enabled to make his Parents & their family independent & comfortable, during their declining years.

As to my own family, I married, in the Spring of 1814, the daughter of Judge Joshua, S. Wright of Wilmington N.C. She died in 1843, when she had been the Mother of twelve Children, eight of which, lived to mature age; but only six of them now survive: & two only remain unmarried. Our Merciful God, thro' through Jesus Christ, be thanked, if I have been instrumental of any little good in the world.

A. Compie

1807 ADAM EMPIE

Rev. Wm. H. Wilmer, and particularly Rev. Adam Empie, were successful in starting the College (Wm. & Mary) upon an era of comparative prosperity.

The Church, the State, and Education in Virginia p. 299.
Sadie Bell Philadelphia 1920

1807

ADAM EMPLE.

Son of John and Anna (Quackenboss) Emple.

b. Schdy. Sept. 5, 1785.

Private tutor in family of Hon. Thomas
Tillson, Rhinebeck, N. Y.

D. D. Univ. of North Carolina, 1828.

Rector,

Hemstead, L. I. 1809-11,

Wilmington, N. C. 1811-14,

West Point, N. Y. 1814-16,

Wilmington, N. C. 1816-27,

Williamsburg, V. 1827-36,

Raleigh N. C. 1836-37,

Richmond, V. 1825-53.

Retired.

Superintendent, High School, Raleigh, N. C.

Chaplain Military Academy and Prof. of

Ethics, History & Geography.

Pres. W. & M. College.

Relative: Morgan I. Smead, Ph. D.,

Prof. Classics, W. & M. College

Married daughter of Judge Joshua G. Wright,

Wilmington, N. C.

1814

She d. ~~in~~ 1814 - Had 12 children.

Natl. Cyc. of Amer. Biog. 1893 v. 3. p-235

Rev. ADAM EMPLE, A.M., Epis. Coll. Car. Sept. Praes. et. stn. in Acad. Milita. Beip.
Amer. Foed. Prof., 1807, a resident of Wilmington, D.C., was a member of the
Philomathean Society. He died in 1860.

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.

Adam Empie, twelfth president of William and Mary college, was born in Schenectady, N. Y., Sept. 5, 1785, son of John Empie, of Dutch descent. He was educated at Union college in that place. He married Ann Eliza, daughter of Judge Joshua Wright of Wilmington, N. C. He entered the ministry of the Episcopal church as assistant minister of St. George's church, Hempstead, L. I., in 1809; and he resided there till 1811. From 1811 to 1814 he was rector of St. James's parish at Wilmington, N. C.; chaplain and professor at West Point, N. Y., from 1814 to 1816, and again rector of St. James's parish, Wilmington, N. C., from 1816 to 1827. After Dr. Wilmer's death in 1827, he was elected president of William and Mary college, and continued in that office until July 6, 1836. Under Dr. Empie the college began rapidly to revive from long-continued depression. The old jealousies had fallen into the background and the sale of its formerly unproductive lands in different parts of the state had realized a considerable endowment fund. In 1785 the endowment fund in money was only \$2,503.44. In 1824 it had reached, through judicious sales of land, the sum of \$151,794.20. In 1826, the last year of Dr. Smith's administration, the number of students in attendance was twelve only; but in 1836, the last year of Dr. Empie's term, the number was sixty-nine. Dr. Empie resigned the presidency of the college to accept the rectorship of a new church which had been built in Richmond, and named St. James in compliment to his old parish of St. James in Wilmington. There he continued to serve most acceptably until the year 1853, when, enfeebled by disease, and having nearly attained the allotted age of man, he returned to Wilmington, to die among the people to whom he had formerly ministered. He published a small work on baptism, and a volume of sermons. The manuscript of a work by him on "tractarianism" is believed to be in the theological seminary at Alexandria. He died Nov. 6, 1860.

The N. C. of A. B., Vol. III, Page 235.

1807

Adam Empie, D.D.--Pres. of Williams and Mary's College, Va.
C. Feb. 1887.

ADAM EMPIE

Twelfth President of William and Mary College, was born in Schenectady, N. Y., September 5, 1785, son of John Empie, of Dutch descent. He was educated at Union College in that place. He married Eliza, daughter of Judge Joshua Wright of Wilmington, N. C. He entered the ministry of the Episcopal Church as assistant minister of St. George's Church, Hempstead, L. I., in 1809; and he resided there till 1811. From 1811 to 1814 he was rector of St. James's parish at Wilmington, N. C.; chaplain at West Point, N. Y., from 1814 to 1816, and again rector of St. James's parish, Wilmington, N. C., from 1816 to 1827. After Dr. Wilmer's death in 1827, he was elected president of William and Mary College and continued in that office until July 6, 1836. Under Dr. Empie the college began rapidly to revive from long-continued depression. The old jealousies had fallen into the background, and the sale of its formerly unproductive lands in different parts of the State had realized a considerable endowment fund. In 1785 the endowment fund in money was only \$2,503.44. In 1824 it had reached, through judicious sales of land, the sum of \$151,794.20. In 1826, the last year of Dr. Smith's administration, the number of students in attendance was 12 only; but in 1836, the last year of Dr. Empie's term, the number was 69. Dr. Empie resigned the presidency of the college to accept the rectorship of a new church in Richmond, and named it St. James's in compliment of his old parish of St. James's in Wilmington. There he continued to serve most acceptably until the year 1853, when enfeebled by disease, and having nearly attained the allotted age of man, he returned to Wilmington, to die among the people to whom he had formerly administered. He published a small work on baptism, and a volume of Sermons. The manuscript of a work by him on "tractarianism" is believed to be in the theological seminary at Alexandria. He died November 6, 1860.

National Cyclopaedia of American Biography
Vol. 3 p. 235
James T. White & Co.
New York 1893.

CLASS OF 1807

ADAM EMPIE

who lived and died in Wilmington, was Rector of the Parish of St. James, for a long time discharging his sacred duty with great fidelity. He married a daughter of Judge Wright.

On his election to the Presidency of William and Mary College in Virginia, in 1827, he removed to Williamsburg with his family; he resigned this position in 1835, and accepted the Rectorship of St. James Church in Richmond, which had been built expressly for him, and named in compliment of his old parish in Wilmington, and here he officiated, until increasing years and declining health compelled his resignation. He then returned to the scene of his early labors to die among the people with whom he had passed so many years, having finished his course on earth he calmly passed away; leaving behind him a record of a well spent life.

Reminiscences and Memoirs
of
North Carolina
John H. Wheeler
Columbus, Ohio
1884

p. 312

CLASS OF 1807.

ADAM EMPIE

In 1811 Rev. Adam Empie was made rector of St. James's and his work was most successful. He found twenty-one communicants when he arrived and left 102 when he resigned in 1814. p. 608

He was succeeded at the Innes Academy by Rev. Adam Empie, rector of St. James's, at one time chaplain at West Point, a man of fine culture, whose volume of published sermons entitles him to fame. He married a daughter of Judge (J. G.) Wright, and was the father of Adam Empie, Esq.

p. 655

Chronicles of the Cape Fear River
2nd Edition
James Sprout
Raleigh, N. C.
1916.

1807 ADAM EMPIE

The Rev. Adam Empie, too, had found it impossible to hold the position of principal (of the Episcopal School, Raleigh, N. C., because of financial embarrassment of the school.)

Education in the Episcopal Church
Clifton Hartwell Brewer
New Haven 1924

p. 263.

CLASS OF 1807

ADAM EMPIE

On 9th December(1813), with Bishop Hobart consulting on the subject of inviting the Rev. Adam Empie to take the chaplaincy of the Military Academy, the Secretary of War having in the previous summer given his consent to offer that appointment to Mr. Empie, and having learned the he(Mr. Empie) had determined to leave Wilmington, North Columbia, I now wrote to Mr. Empie that the Bishop highly approved the plan, and that the selection of an Episcopalian had been made because, aside from my own views, the service of that church was deemed to be the most appropriate to the discipline of a military academy.

Memoirs of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift
Harrison Ellery
1890.

p. 123

1807 ADAM EMPIE.

LETTER written by Prof. Benjamin Allen to Rev.
Frederic Beasley.

Schenectady, Sept. 30, 1806.

Rev. & Dear Sir:

The hundred dollars which the Society in New-York gave to Empie is expended, of course he is destitute of money. I have a bill of all the items; he has been as economical as possible. He is now in his senior year, and it will require one hundred dollars, at least to carry him thro. He is a young man of real merit. His talents are good and his application is unremitting. He is one of the best scholars, that we ever had here. I hope and presume, that your benevolent Society will feel willing to grant Mr. Empie, another hundred dollars. They certainly cannot bestow on one more worthy. Mr. Empie will be soon out of college and soon ready to enter into the immediate service of the Church. I hope and believe he will be a very useful Member and Minister. I regret that my absence from home prevented my having the pleasure of seeing your Worthy Bishop, when he visited this place.

I am informed that Doctor Hobart has D'LaLand's Astronomy, could you obtain the loan of it for me?

I am respectfully yours

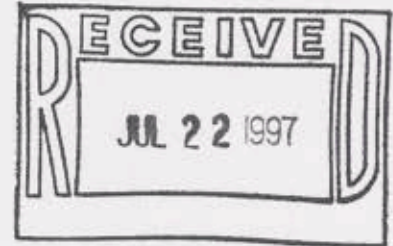
Benj. Allen.

Rev. Mr. Beasley.

Correspondence of John Henry Hobart
Vol. 5 p. 200
1912.

July 19, 1997

Betty Allen, Asst. Archivist
Schaffer Library
Union College
Schenectady, N.Y. 12308



Dear Miss Allen,

Again thank you for the material you sent me on Adam Empie. I have finally managed to transcribe it and thought you might like to have a typed copy for your files. There were a few little garbles here and there that I could not decipher, but they didn't seem to be particularly important.

Reading about Adam made me think of THE DIVINE COMEDY when Dante's great great grandfather Cacciaguida, comes down to meet him and says "Io fui la tua radice.." All my other forbears are from Virginia and Maryland and therefore documented back to the Magna Carta and beyond. I rather like having Adam all to myself for the moment.

Adam lists Morgan J. Smead PhD as a relative (his son-in-law)) who also attended Union College. . Smead is buried next to Adam in Oakdale Cemetery In Wimington, N.C. with PhD on his tombstone. Do you have any material on Dr. Smead? I would appreciate it if you could send it to me..

With your permission I would like to send copies of this transcript to my cousins and also to the churches and schools he served.. Before getting in touch with you I had already written to them all and no one had more than a line or two to send me. They would be St. James, Wilmington, N.C., St. James, Richmond, Va. (They would be especially glad to have same since the church and all its records burned to the ground a few years ago. They would at least have one archive.) The U.S.M.A. at West Point. Bruton P arish and the College of William and Mary , Williamsburg, Va.

It gives me great pleasure to address this letter to Schenectady((despite the spelling) when I recall the luminously beautiful day we spent in your lovely city.

Again thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Clorice B Robinson

Mrs. Chas. D. Robinson
4935 Little Falls Rd..
Arlington, Va. 22207

UNION  COLLEGE

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12308-2374
(518) 388-6277 6620

SCHAFFER LIBRARY

July 25, 1997

Mrs. Clarice B. Robinson
4935 Little Falls Rd.
Arlington, VA 22207

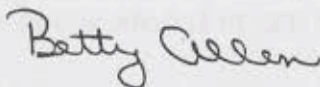
Dear Mrs. Robinson:

Enclosed is the only information we have on Morgan Smead, a Union College graduate of 1839. Also enclosed is another permission form for you to sign and return to me. If you decide to publish the enclosed information about Mr. Smead in any publication, you must first request permission from the library director. Such permission is usually routinely granted.

Your request to provide copies of the material on Adam Empie to family members and other institutions presents a dilemma for us. The information that you transcribed does not seem to be an exact copy of the material we have in Mr. Empie's file. It is taken from the material we provided to you. We would prefer that you not provide blanket copies of this information to other individuals and institutions. Please feel free to show them your copies, but we would ask that they contact us at Schaffer Library if they wish copies of their own. This will allow us to more easily track the use of this material. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and thank you for your consideration in asking before copying.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Betty Allen
Assistant Archivist

enclosure

Questionnaire from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. 1855

Richmond Virg^a June 1855

To: *Rev. Adam Empie, D.D. of the class that graduated at Union College in the year 1807.*

1. Name: *Adam Empie*
2. Parents: *John and Anna Quackenboss Empie*
3. Birth Place: *Schenectady, N.Y. Birth Day and Year: Sept. 5th, 1785.*
4. Various Residences and dates: *Schenectady to 1788. Near the Little Falls, Herkimer Co., N.Y. to 94; Schenectady, 1807. Rhinebeck, 1808. Hempstead, L.I., 1811; Wilmington, N.C. 1814; West Point, N.Y. 1816, Wilmington, N.C. 1827, Williamsburg, Va. 1836, Raleigh, N.C. 1837, Richmond, Va. 1853 near Richmond till now.*
5. At what academy prepared for college: *In the school of Richard Wiggins, Schenectady.*
6. At what college graduated and when: *Union College, 1807*
7. Occupation: *Teaching and studying his profession simultaneously at Rhinebeck as private tutor in the family of Hon. Thos. Tillotson, then Sec. of State, and Hempstead as assistant in Classical Academy of Rev., Seth Hart.*
8. Profession studied: *Theology at Rhinebeck and Hempstead, privately with the occasional advice of Bp. Hobart in the years of 1807 -9 when he was ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church and soon after he was admitted to the priesthood.*
9. Profession practised: *Epis. Hempstead, L.I. 1809-11.. Wilmington, N.C. 1811-14. West Point N.Y. 1814-16. Wilmington, N.C. 1816-27. Williamsburg, Va. 1827-36, . Raleigh, N.C. 1836-37 Richmond, Va. 1837-53. near Richmond. Retired from duty , being too infirm to labor ever since.*
10. Other occupations followed: *Always had double duties; those of teaching and of the ministry in Hempstead, Wilmington, & Richmond. Superintendent High School, Raleigh, N.C. Chaplain, Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. and also Prof. Ethics, History and Geography President, William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va. at the time above stated in art. 4.*
11. Important Offices:
12. Literary or Scientific Works: *Remarks on the doctrine of Modern Universalist. Discourses on Immersion and infant Baptism. Two other works exist only in manuscript Remarks and Discourses are long out of print. No copy to be had. I long since sent a copy to the college library.*

13. Names of relatives who graduated from Union: *Morgan J. Smead, Ph.D. Prof. of Classics, William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va.*

14. Literary, honorary titles: *D.D., University of North Carolina, 1828.*

15. Engraved portrait: *An engraved portrait I cannot afford. I sent a daguerreotype and a photograph.*

16. Date & place of Death: *[Nov. 6, 1860, Wilmington, NC.]*

17. General Info.

His parents being poor, he with but little assistance from them and other friends was enabled to educate himself by teaching and by other labors. Entering college unexpectedly in the fall of 1803, before he was prepared to pass an examination upon all the necessary preparatory studies, he became an intense student during 18 hours out of every twenty-four, giving only 3 1/2 to sleep. Being naturally of delicate constitution, both his health and eyes soon failed under this effort and he was obliged afterwards, according to the advice of his kind friend Prof. Benj. Allen to give six hours nightly to repose. Being always as far as practicable a most laborious student his eyes were again over tasked by midnight labors in 1809 and so severely broken down that he did not recover the full use of them in 7 years. Wilmington he left because the climate threatened to prove fatal to him if he remained. At West Point he contracted a pectoral affection (sic) in 1814 which almost led him to the verge of the grave. Seeking at the South a more congenial climate his eyes were again almost destroyed in 1818 from which shock they have never fully recovered. For nearly three years he was confined to a dark room, except on Sundays and at other times when official duty called him out. As during the former 7 years so during ten years now. Besides constant slow fevers he daily incessantly suffered in his head and eyes and extending through his arms and shoulders pains that a large part of the time were excruciating, but which moderating gradually nearly ceased at last after 1837 but as the pains during the last eighteen years were always daily exasperated in proportion as the eyes used or exposed to light by day or night so during all that time all close thoughts and all and all mental effort and attention occasioned pain and suffering just as soon and intense as did the direct use or exposure of the eyes to light or heat. This same morbid sensibility has continued more or less ever since so that though now ordinarily free from much pain he has been able to write very few new sermons since 1815. and though daily tasking his eyes to the extreme point of endurance and of safety he was barely enabled with with the aid of carefully prepared extemporaneous discourses to discharge from year to year the double office of academic or collegiate and of pastoral duty; both of which his circumstances rendered necessary and the former of which his feeble health and infirmities compelled him to resign in 1845 while the latter he, with great difficulty continued till 1853 As too, the first diseased condition of his eyes was brought on by over study, so was the second occasioned by weekly lectures to his congregation at night, at a time when his head and eyes were inflamed and very painful. Thus, precluded from the regular use of his eyes by candle light after the year 1818 as

well as from much close thought at all times God in His wise Providence was pleased greatly to reduce his abilities and his usefulness and to unfit him for all higher stations and larger spheres of duty during the rest of his life. It pleased Heaven, however, in the fall of 1827 to call him to the Presidency of William & Mary College, to the Professorship of Belles Lettres, Logic & Ethics and also to the rectorship of Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, Va. all of which duties, though laborious he still felt able through God's help to accomplish, because he had long since been more or less familiar with them all. He therefore accepted this call, though compelled to refuse some other offers Nor was the case materially altered, when after voluntarily resigning 1st the Presidency of William and Mary College on account of the annually returning sickness of himself and his family, and 2nd the Episcopal High School in Raleigh which he unexpectedly found to be a speculation upon borrowed capital, and verging to its ruin. He in 1837 organized and took charge of a new congregation in Richmond, Va. This church, however, having become large and flourishing while his own infirmities and disabilities had increased he was, in 1853 obliged to resign, and being no longer compelled to public Ministerial duties he retired to private life. Blessed be God! for so long and so much beyond all reasonable expectations continuing his forbearance and loving kindness to a creature so feeble, so diseased and so unworthy of the least of His mercies To Him with the Holy Spirit be the glory, through Christ Jesus.

18. My Great Grandfather Johannes Empgie (or John Empie as the name had been Anglicized in this country) was from Worms in Germany and emigrated to this country in the reign of Queen Anne when my grandfather Adam Empte was young. Holding a large tract of land by Istering?, he at first settled in Stone, Arabia, but harassed by the Canadians - French and Indians the family afterwards moved to Schenectady where my father John Empte was born in 1729. My grandfather Adam died in 1770, and in 1772 my Father married his third wife, who under Providence gave birth to the subject of this sketch in 1785 on my Father's side, therefore I am of German descent; but on that of my mother I am low Dutch, for the Quackenboss family was from Holland, The Empte family was originally Lutheran. but after they settled in Schenectady, having access to no other church and being strictly pious they united themselves with the reformed Dutch, in which and in the Presbyterian Church I was educated. but from which the systematic Calvinism of their catechism and confessions of faith had repelled me before I became acquainted with the teachings and standards of the Protestant Episcopal Church. My own parents' family I should here add were always strictly and devoutly pious. My parents had four children (besides myself), two of whom died young while my two sisters Catherine and Mary lived to the age of between 69 and 70 years. Thank God that their only son was disposed and enabled to make his parents and their family independent and comfortable during their declining years. As to my own family I married in the Spring of 1814, the daughter of Judge Joshua G. Wright of Wilmington, N. C. She died in 1843 when she had been the mother of twelve children, eight of which lived to mature age, but only six of them now survive, and two only remain unmarried. Our Merciful God, through Jesus Christ be thanked; if I have been instrumental of any little good in the world.

A Empie

Adam Empire - AB-1807

Adam Empire

F. B.
1807