CLASS OF 1812

WILLIAM TURELL ANDREWS

Of Boston, a life-member, was born in Boston, December 24, 1794, and died there November 24, 1879, aged 84 years and eleven months.

Mr. Andrews was one of the youngest students who ever entered and graduated at Harvard College. When admitted in 1809 he was only 13 years old, graduating in the class of 1812, with the well known Peleg Sprague, Edward Brooks, Charles Brown, Dr. John Homans and others. From his father Ebenezer Turell, who was associated with Isaiah Thomas in the printing business many years ago, he inherited great wealth, and was himself a large owner of real estate. After leaving college he began the study of law, and, entering upon his profession, he practised at the bar with the late Thomas Wetmore, a life-long friend of close intimacy. He was a man of very quiet, retiring disposition, and after a few years he quit the practice of law, and devoting his life to the study of the classics, has left one of the largest private libraries in Boston, consisting mostly of foreign works, with many old and rare books.

In addition to his studies Mr. Andrews found time to fill many offices of trust. From 1853 to 1857 he was treasurer of Harvard College. The salary voted him he gave to the Plummer professorship. He was a trustee of the Westborough Reform School for four or five years from the commencement of that institution; a trustee of the McLean Asylum and Massachusetts General Hospital; for over fifty years a trustee of the Boston Library; a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society forty-one years and president five years; a director for thirty years of the Manufacturers' Insurance Company; a director of the City Bank forty-three years and president many years; for twenty-seven years a director of the Massachusetts Mutual Insurance Co. He was also one of the trustees of the Old Ladies' Home, and was connected with the Provident Institution For Savings, as secretary, trustee, and vice-president from 1843 to 1874. He was a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Warren Thursday Evening Club, and for many years was a trustee of the Boston Athenaeum.

Mr. Andrews was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature as a representative from Boston in 1841 and 1847. He was a member of the board of Aldermen of the city of Boston, 1840-41, when his friend, John Chapman, was mayor, and has filled other city offices.

Mr. Andrews leaves a wife, two sons and three daughters.

He was admitted a member December 10, 1846.

New England Historical and Genealogical Register
Vol. 34 p. 209.
Mr. R. E. Argersinger
Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation
49 Federal Street
Boston 7, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Argersinger:

Isaiah Thomas Andrews and William Turell Andrews were members of a large group of students examined for advanced standing on September 29, 1809. There is no question at all that they had completed a year's work at Union and done very well at it, for such transfers from other colleges were usually set back a year after taking the examinations here. Isaiah reported that he was born on October 4, 1793, and William, that he was born on December 24, 1794.

It is a fine idea to revise the Union alumni catalogue, because all kinds of errors have crept into such publications after years of well-intentioned but ill informed editing. If Harvard were to again publish a complete catalogue of graduates, I would have to revise it very extensively.

Sincerely yours,

Clifford K. Shepton
Custodian of the Harvard University Archives
Mr. R. E. Argersinger

November 12, 1952

PERSONAL

Mr. Clifford K. Shipton,
Custodian of the Harvard University Archives,
Harvard College Library,
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Shipton:

I have your letter of November 10 concerning Isaiah Thomas Andrews and William Turell Andrews, both of the Harvard Class of 1812. You confirm our information that both were members of the freshman class at Union presumably in the school year 1808 and '09, and were admitted to the Harvard sophomore class presumably in the fall of 1809 and graduated in the summer of 1812.

I appreciate this information very much and am taking the liberty of trespassing further on your good nature.

I am confused about one or two other points. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, volume XXXIV, page 209, states that William T. Andrews was 13 years old in 1808, when he entered Harvard. Apparently, however, he entered Harvard in 1809 and if he was 13 years old then, he entered Union when he was 12. I would like very much to know whether you can check this information and whether you have any further data on the age of his brother. We find that some of our early records show boys of 10 or under who were students at Union, but we believe that they did not attend the college but rather the grammar school run by the college and that their names were incorrectly placed in the college alumni catalog. However, your records seem to be clear that these two boys were given credit for a full freshman year's work at Union, which would hardly have been the case if they had only been through the grammar school. Your comments will be helpful.

So far as I know, there are no immediate plans for publishing a Union College biographical catalog, but if you ever have occasion to use early information concerning Union College alumni, I am sure you could secure a great deal of assistance from J. R. Brown, Jr., Chairman of our Committee on Alumni Records. His home address is 27 West Erie Street, Albany, New York. He has for years been tireless in digging up data concerning our alumni and it was at his request that I sent you my recent letter.

Let me thank you again for your very courteous attention.

Yours very truly,

R. E. Argersinger.
Mr. R. E. Argersinger
Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation
49 Federal Street
Boston 7, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Argersinger:

You are quite right - Isaiah Thomas Andrews and William Turell Andrews were admitted to Harvard College as transfers from Union College. They were admitted to the Sophomore Class and were forgiven the usual fees for advanced standing because they were transfer students. If you wish to know anything more about them, would you tell me specifically what it is that you seek?

In connection with the biography of Isaiah Thomas, I once read the correspondence between him and the boys' father, but I do not recollect in it any reference to the boys.

I hope Union College is preparing an alumni biographical catalogue; it would be extremely useful.

Sincerely yours,

Clifford K. Shipton (signed)
Custodian of the Harvard
University Archives
November 3, 1952

PERSONAL

The Custodian of the Harvard University Archives
Widener Library,
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

Dear Sir:

As a graduate of Union College of Schenectady, New York, I have been asked by the Alumni Records Department to check, if possible, certain information regarding two Harvard College graduates. These two brothers Isaiah T. Andrews and William Turell Andrews graduated from Harvard College in the Class of 1812. They were sons of Ebenezer Turell Andrews, a member of an early printing firm and according to our information, William entered Harvard when he was 13 years old in 1803. We also have then listed as nongraduates of Union and are anxious to check this latter statement. I would appreciate it very much if you can give me any information bearing on this point.

Thank you for your attention,

Yours very truly,

R. E. Argersinger
WILLIAM ANDREWS, non-graduate of 1812, a resident of Boston, Mass., was a member of the Philomathean Society.

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.