

Re: Rev. David French

Union College - 1807.

The following was copied for me by Mr. J. C. H. Maxwell from the records of the North Buffalo, Pa. Church:

Rev. David French.

The third Pastor of Buffalo (here changed to North in contradistinction from South Buffalo) was born Aug. 23, 1783 in Cambridge, N. Y.

He was ordained by Chartiers Presbytery by order of the Synod Aug. 28, 1810 in order that he might be qualified for Mission Work in the Presbytery of Kentucky. A call dated May 12, 1811 was made out for him by North and South Buffalo and accepted by him on the 21 of the same month, and he was installed Pastor over these two congregations July 2, 1811 and so continued until 1852, when he dimitted S. B. and in "1853 in consequence of bodily infirmities disqualifying him from Ministerial labors he dimitted the charge of North Buffalo."

He died March 30, 1855 and was buried at North Buffalo where a Massive and beautiful Monument mark the "good Man's" grave.

After his first wife's death, Mr. French married Elizabeth #--? who according to her tombstone was born 2 June 1801 and died 14 Feb. 1881. By his second wife he had a son whom I believe was also a minister.

The data on the statistical sheet ~~the~~ was copied from History of the United States Presbyterian Church, pages 119-120 by Jennie M. Patten. You will note that in this the date of his birth is given as 11 Aug. 1783 whereas the Church data gives the date as 23 August of the same year. The date of his death and that of Sarah McClellan French was taken from their tombstones in the North Buffalo Cemetery. The date of their marriage was found in the records of the Coila Church, Cambridge, N. Y. Sarah McClellan was the daughter of John (2) McClellan (Robert 1) and Sarah Thompson.

Miss Louise McClellan of Mercer, Pa. is a descendant. She may be able to add to the data.

Submitted by

(Miss) Ruth M. Duryee
East Main Street
Cambridge,
Washington County
New York.

UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD

PLEASE FILL IN COMPLETELY AND RETURN TO:
THE GRADUATE COUNCIL, UNION COLLEGE, SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

UNION DEGREE No degree
CLASS OF 1807

1. NAME IN FULL David French
2. SON OF (A) FATHER David French, b. Dunstable, Mass 23 Jan. 1753
d. Salem, N. Y. 6 Nov. 1836; married c. 1775
 (B) MOTHER (MAIDEN NAME) Susanna, Dau. of Col. John and Sarah Blair,
b. Pelham, Mass 22 April 1748, died Cambridge, N. Y. before 1820 at which
date her husband married Elizabeth Foster
3. BORN (DATE) 11 Aug. 1783 (PLACE) Cambridge, New York
4. DIED (DATE) 30 March 1855 (PLACE) North Buffalo, Pennsylvania.
5. MARRIED (HER NAME) Sarah McClellan (DATE) 16 Oct. 1811
 (A) WIFE WAS BORN (DATE) 1794/5 (G. S.) (PLACE) Cambridge, N. Y.
 (B) WIFE DIED (DATE) 13 May 1833 (PLACE) North Buffalo, Pa.

6. CHILDREN: NAME DATE OF BIRTH DATE OF DEATH
- 5 sons - all ministers.

7. PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AT:

8. COLLEGE LIFE: (A) FRATERNITY MEMBERSHIP

(B) LITERARY OR SOCIAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

(C) CLASS OFFICES

(D) COLLEGE PRIZES AND HONORS

9. OTHER COLLEGES ATTENDED

10. DEGREES

11. PROFESSION Minister

12. BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD WITH DATES

13. MILITARY HISTORY AND TITLES

OVER

14. PUBLIC OFFICES HELD WITH DATES

15. MEMBER OF PROFESSIONAL, LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, SOCIETIES

16. LITERARY PRODUCTIONS, DATE AND PUBLISHER

17. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION

18. POLITICAL PREFERENCE

19. BROTHERS AND SISTERS

20. RELATIVES OF SELF OR WIFE WHO HAVE ATTENDED UNION

21. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. (USE THIS SPACE FOR OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OR TO SUPPLEMENT ANY OF THE ABOVE ANSWERS.)

22. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON THROUGH WHOM I CAN ALWAYS BE REACHED.

NAME STREET

CITY STATE

23. INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY

STREET ADDRESS

CITY AND STATE

DATE

DAVID FRENCH

After the removal of Mr. Laing the congregation (North Buffalo United Presbyterian Church of Taylors-town, Pa.) was vacant until the year 1811. The Rev. David French was the next pastor of Buffalo. He was born in Vermont, August 23, 1783, and removed to Washington Co., N. Y., at an early age, and was raised in that county. He was educated at Union College, Schenectady and studied theology at the First Western Theological Seminary in Beaver Co., Pa., under Dr. John Anderson; was ordained by the Associate Presbytery of Chartiers by order of the Associate Synod, that he might be the better qualified for missionary work in the Presbytery of Kentucky. A new congregation was organized about this time and called South Buffalo. To distinguish these two, Buffalo was named North Buffalo. These two united in a call for his labors. The call was dated May 12, 1811, and accepted on the 21st of the same month. He was installed July 2nd following. At this time there was erected a new house of worship. It was of hewn logs and weatherboarded, and was neat and comfortable in contrast with the old. The remains of the old house stood until 1845, when they were taken away. The second house stood until 1848, when the present brick one was erected beside it and the old one removed.

Mr. French's pastorate was the longest that has been in the congregation, he having been pastor for 41 years of the united charge, and 42 years in this congregation. In the 40 years of his pastorate he never disappointed his people on a Sabbath-day because of sickness. Once he was prevented from reaching South Buffalo by high water, and once or twice by death in the family. In 1853 a paralytic stroke disabled him, and his speech was impaired. He resigned the charge of South Buffalo in 1852, and in 1853 North Buffalo. He died March 30, 1855, and his remains were laid in the graveyard by the North Buffalo Church by the side of his first wife, two sons, and five daughters, two being daughters of his second wife.

French, David
From: Cambridge, N.Y.
Last residence: Taylors town, Pa.

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Records show one
David French
Pvt. in Capt Jonathan Lynde's Co.,
37th Regt. (Noble's) N.Y. Militia.

Commencement of service: Sept 7, 1814
Expiration of service: Sept 14, 1814

MISS RUTH M. DURYEE
EAST MAIN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, NEW YORK

March 11, 1943.

The Graduate Council
Union College
Schenectady, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

The enclosed material on Rev. David French was collected in assembling material on the Descendants of Robert McClellan who came to America in 1774. Sarah French, Rev. David French's first wife was Robert (1) McClellan's granddaughter, the daughter of his son John and Sarah(Thompson) McClellan.

I am wondering if you have any data on Rev. George M. Hall, another grandchild of Robert (1) McClellan. George Hall, the son of John and Mary (McClellan) Hall was born in Argyle, N. Y. 26 Dec. 1807, died 27 Dec. 1874. He was a graduate of Union (information furnished by a grandnephew) and an "Associate Presbyterian Seminary" "somewhere in Pennsylvania" I have his Bible records which give the date of his marriage to Miss Catherine G. Kyle Dec. 22, 1836. It also gives the dates of his children, but not the places of their births.

I would greatly appreciate any help you can give me.

Very truly yours,

Ruth M. Duryee.

I may add my interest and research on these lines in "not" common civil" but purely out of friendship. R.M.D.

*class of 1831
no information*

David French 1807

David French

1807