

CLASS OF 1819

RUFUS BLAKEMAN

Was born in Monroe, Fairfield Co., Conn., January 12, 1795. He was graduated from Union College in 1817, and from the Medical University of the City of New York in 1821, and immediately commenced the practice of medicine on Greenfield hill, Fairfield Co., Conn., in the year 1822, and continued to practice until his death, February 27, 1870. His ride was very extensive, reaching far into the adjoining towns. He was a member of the Medical Board of Examinators of the New Haven Medical School for many years, and at one time was president of the Connecticut Medical Association. Besides attending to the various duties of his profession, he often contributed articles on various subjects pertaining to his profession to the medical journals. He also published a work entitled "Credulity & Superstition," which met with a ready sale. In politics he was a staunch Whig and a Republican and as such was a magistrate of the town of Fairfield for many years, Judge Probate for more than twenty-four years, and a member of the State Legislature. He was not a member of any church, but was a regular attendant and liberal supporter of the Congregational Church of Greenfield Hill, of which Rev. Thomas B. Sturges was pastor. He married Mahala, daughter of Nathan N. Walker, of Long Hill, Conn., in 1819. They had two children, viz., Catharine A., and Rufus (deceased). Mrs. Dr. Blakeman is now (1880) residing at the old homestead with her daughter. His address in 1853 as president of the State Medical Society follows:

History of Fairfield Co., Conn.  
D. Hamilton Hurd  
J. W. Lewis & Co.  
Philadelphia  
1881.

p. 29

1819

Rufus Blakeman, -who is a physician and surgeon at Greenfield Hill, Conn. C. Nov.1880

RUFUS BLAKEMAN, 1819, of Huntington, Conn., was a member of the Adelpic Society.  
Adelpic Catalogue 1830

Rec<sup>d</sup>. March 28. 1855

1819

To Rufus Blakeman of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1819  
(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 Alcove 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 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. Rufus Blakeman  
[Let this be written plainly and the middle names in full.]

II. Names of both Parents; thus:—  
[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.] Ephraim & Sarah Blakeman

III. Birth Place. Monroe, Connecticut Birth Day and Year. January 12<sup>th</sup> 1795

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:—  
[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New-York City, 1830-54.] Monroe until 1822  
 afterwards Greenport Hill Fairfield Conn.

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:—  
[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1815-17.] At Easton & Greenport Hill, Conn. under Mrs. Nettie Freeman & Mrs. Belden

VI. At what College he graduated, and when. Union College A 1819

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—  
[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1847-48, or Merchant's Clerk, New-York City, 1849-51.] None except preparatory for Med. Profession

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:—  
[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.] Medicine with Doctrs. Beardsley & Co and E. Middlebrook Conn. & Doctentus Mott N. Y.

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., 1830-5; New-York City, 1835-54.] Greenport Hill, Fairfield, since 1822

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—  
[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Geneseo, N. Y., 1835-54; or Manufacturer, Schoharie, N. Y., 1841-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.] Medicine exclusively

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:—  
[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1839-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.] Member of Connecticut Legislature in 1839 and 1841 Judge of Probate since 1838, holding the office at present - Vice President of Conn. Med Socy 1850 and 1851 - President 1852 & 1853. \*

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.  
[Copies are solicited for the "Graduates Alcove" in College Library.] A work entitled Philosophical Essay on Credulity & Superstition, and Philosophical Essay on Animal Faculties, or Charming, &c. Also Address to Med. Graduates of Yale College. Also to State Med. Convention

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.  
on the Hist. of Medicine and the early Physicians of Fairfield County Conn. None

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.] M. D. from New York College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1822

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him? *None*  
[One or two copies, together with his autograph, are solicited for College Library.]

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.]

\* Member of the Board of Examiners of Med. Inst. Yale College several years previous to 1848

I will endeavor the first opportunity of sending you the works of mine for the purpose proposed by you  
 R B

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.

Original Ancestor in America, Rev Adam  
Blakeman first Minister of Stratford, Conn.  
Borne in Staffordshire, England, ~~1599~~ A. 1598,  
Graduated at Cambridge Colledge, England, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1617  
and died at Stratford, Fairfield Co. Connecticut, in 1665

XIX. List of such graduates as may not be widely known; their residences, professions, dates of deaths, &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 1848. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]

Greenfield Hill March 26<sup>th</sup> 1855

Mr. Pierson—

Dear Sir I sent you for the purpose of your triennial  
catalogue such information as I could then obtain of several  
Union Graduates which you will find by referring to the  
sums if you possess it. I have not the memoranda to refer  
to at present and cannot procure such information without again  
entering into a correspondence than such as was then intended for that  
purpose. I presume your circulars will elicit the desired information  
of them even if you have not filed my former letter—  
I am gratified to learn that you propose putting into the Connecticut Gazette  
and you will be pleased to see your names therein—Yours &c. R. Blakeman

Rufus Blakeman 1819  
A73

1819

Rufus B. Blakeman A. B.