JOSEPH W. CHINN, 1819, of Lancaster Co., Va., was a member of the Adelphic Society.

Adelphic Catalogue 1830

1819

JOSEPH W. CHINN:

Died: Hon. Joseph W. Chinn, formerly member of Congress from the Northern Neck District, Va., at his residence, in Richmond county, on the 5th inst. (should be ult.) --Daily Albany Argus, Jan. 4, 1841.
CHINN  Joseph William, A Representative from Virginia, born at "Epping Forest", near Nuttsville, Virginia 11/16/1798. Graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N Y in 1819. Studied law at Needham, Va., admitted to the Bar in 1821 and practiced in Lancaster County, Va. Member of the State House Delegates 1826-28, served in the State Senate 1829-31, elected to the twenty second and twenty third congresses as a Democrat, March 4, 1831 to March 3, 1835. Moved to Richmond County, Virginia and resumed the practice of law; died at his Estate "Wilna", near Sharps, Virginia December 5, 1840, interment in the family cemetery at "Wilna".

A biographical sketch from page 808—Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927—Sent me by Hon S O Bland, Congress, 1st Dist., Virginia

Walter N. Chinn, Jr.
1105 CAROLINE STREET, FREDERICKSBURG, VA. 22401

July 15, 1968
ach 7/22/68

Registrar,
Union College,
Schenectady, N Y  12300

Dear Sir:—

I am interested in my Great Grand Father, Joseph William Chinn, Lancaster County, Virginia who was a student at your Institution, graduating in 1819.

He studied Law at Needham, Virginia, and was admitted to the Virginia Bar, served in the Virginia State Senate from 1829 to 1831, and then was elected to the U S Congress serving as Representative of the First District of Virginia from 1831 to March 3, 1835.

I have a copy of his Will, and if any one is at all interested, I can send a copy.

I would like to know if you have any records of him, and if so, could you give me any pertinent details.

Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely,

W. N. Chinn.
July 22, 1968

Mr. Walter N. Chinn, Jr.
1105 Caroline Street
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Dear Mr. Chinn:

Apparently your father or an uncle wrote to the registrar of Union College in 1925 to obtain information regarding Joseph William Chinn of the class of 1849. I have enclosed a copy of the letter sent in reply. Other than the material contained in the Biographical Directory of the American Congress sketch, we have very little information on your great-grandfather. Enclosed are copies of excerpts from the catalogue of the Adelphic Society and an Albany, New York newspaper.

We would, indeed like to have a copy of Joseph W. Chinn's will to be added to his permanent biographical file here in the Alumni Office.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charles A. McGill, Jr.
Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Placement

Dear Sir:-

I am interested in my Great William Chinn, Lancaster County, student at your Institution, and would like to know if you have any records of him, and if so, could you give me any pertinent details.

Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Mr. Chinn left the well of his grandfather for your information.

See letter of yours to him dated July 22/68.
I, Joseph W. Chinn of Richmond County, Va., do make & publish this as my last will - Viz: I wish my executors & executrix herein after named, as soon as practicable, after my death to pay all my just debts; they will be found few in number and small in amount, and I desire that they may be paid, by collecting the money due me, & by a sale, if necessary, of such articles as can be most conveniently spared, made privately.

I desire that my Estate be kept together, for the mutual & comfortable support of my wife Marianna, during her life or widowhood, and of my children, & for the proper and liberal education of my children. If my wife marry, she may, upon her marriage, or in six months thereafter, elect either to take her dower & thirds separately, or to take one third the profits of my estate.

When my daughter Gertrude arrives to the age of eighteen years, I desire that my negroes be equally divided between herself & her brother J. W. Chinn; & that she my said daughter take her half, for herself & her heirs forever. The other half & my real estate to be kept together as before directed for the support my son J. W. Chinn & his education & the support of my wife, if living, until my son arrives to the age of eighteen years; then I give to my daughter Gertrude one third of the half of the negroes left on the real estate, & to my son J. W. Chinn my real estate & the other two thirds of the negroes, I wish my chattel property equally divided between them when Gertrude arrives to the age of Eighteen.

If either of my children die before marriage or without issue, I give the whole estate to the survivor; if both die before marriage without issue & my wife be living, unmarried, I give my whole estate to her for life, with the right to dispose of absolutely the following negroes by will or other wise Viz. Lucy & her children Elijah & Mary, Kitty & her increase, Charlotte & her present & future increase, Peter, & Judy & her increase, and Shadrack, and all the balance of my estate real
& personal, at the death of my wife & in the above recited event I give to the children of my brother J. S. Chinn, then living. If both my children die, without issue and under the age of twenty one years, & my wife be dead also, I give the whole of my estate real & personal to the children of my brother J. S. Chinn, except the following negroes Viz: Lucy & her children, Elijah & Mary, Kitty & her increase, Charlotte & her present & future increase & Peter to be divided in two equal parts, one of which I give to the children of Mrs. M. H. Buckner, & the other to the children of Mrs. E. T. Neale, now living: and Judy & Shadrack to C. W. Smith's children.

If it should be necessary for the support of my wife & the support & education of my children to raise funds beyond the profits of my estate I wish such servants sold as can be best spared, where no ties shall be broken & for this reason would designate Jacob, & his wife Darcy & her increase, Cady & her increase & Hawleigh or Judy.

I advise my wife, If I die before building at Sion House, to board with her children in some town, where she can be relieved from the care & labour of housekeeping & be with her children while they are educating. I wish all my law & other books kept for my son J. W. Chinn except the books received by me while a member of the house of Representatives by the vote of that body: these last I wish to be delivered to the trustees of the Northumberland academy to be placed in the library of that institution.

I also wish my gun kept for my son: & my secretary.

I appoint my wife Executrix, my brother J. S. Chinn my friends B. C. Chinn & C. W. Smith executors of this will. To the three last I commend my helpless wife & children.

If Hamilton Neale study Law, I wish him to have the use of my Law books, & hope he will take care of them not for their value but that they may go to Jospeh if he live: & when Hamilton commences the practice I wish my execrs. out of my estate to furnish a
a good horse saddle & bridle to be absolutely his. Written wholly by myself & signed & sealed by me this 8th day of July, 1838.

Jos: W. Chinn Seal

A Copy/

Teste:          

Richmond County Circuit Court

Clerk
Know all men by these presents that I Marianna Chinn of the County of Richmond, hereby declare that I will not take any part of the provision made for me by the will of my deceased husband Joseph W. Chinn, & that I hereby renounce all benefit that I might derive under said will. Witness my hand & seal this 19th day of October 1841

Marianna Chinn    seal

Witness
Wm N. Ward
Jno. F. B. Jeffries

Virginia
At a Court of quarterly session held for Richmond County at the Court house on Monday the 1st. day of November 1841. This Renunciation of Marianna Chinn widow, and relict of Joseph W. Chinn decd. was this day presented, proved by the oaths of the subscribing witnesses thereto, received by the Court and ordered to be recorded

Teste,
Jno. F.B. Jeffries Cl

A Copy/ Teste:

Clerk
Richmond County Circuit Court
December 4, 1925

Joseph W. Chinn, Esq.
Warsaw, Va.

My dear Mr. Chinn:

Replying to your letter of December 1st, I have looked up the record of your grandfather and find that what you say about him tallies with the data you give here.

The first record that I can find is in the Faculty Minutes for December 1817 in which the record reads, "The following young gentlemen of the Junior Class have sustained their examinations". In this list is Mr. Chinn's name. He is not in the student list which our Faculty Minutes show for July 23, 1817; so this is evidence that he entered Union College in September 1817, as a Junior.

He was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa in the Spring of 1819 and the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred upon Joseph W. Chinn by the Trustees of Union College on July 27th, 1819.

There is no record of the exact class marks. Our records of the marks in each class begin in 1827, but the fact that your grandfather was made a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, is proof that he was a student of high rank.

Very truly yours,

EGE:V
Registrar.
Warsaw, Va., Dec. 1, 1925.

REGISTRAR,

Union University,
Schenectady, N. Y.,

Dear Sir:

I have recently learned that my grandfather, Joseph W. Chinn, was a student at Union College, the predecessor of your institution and am advised that you will give me such information as I need in regard to his attendance there.

I can only tell you he probably registered from Richmond county, Va., and was made a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Union College about the year 1819.

He was afterwards a member of the State Senate and House of Delegates of Virginia, and served two terms on the United States Congress in 1831/32, 1832/33, 1833/34, 1834/35.

I am desirous to obtain such information as I can in regard to his collegiate career, such as what degree he received if any, &c. as I have been requested to do so by the Joint Committee of the U. S. Congress which is revising the biographical sketches of the old members. My grandfather died in 1840 at the age of forty two, and when my father was only 3 or 4 years of age, hence I have very little first hand information about him. I will be greatly obliged if you will look up his record for me and advise me at your first convenience.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]