

CLASS OF 1819.

THEODORE CLAPP

A son of Deacon Thaddeus and Achsah (Parsons) Clapp, of Easthampton, Mass., and grandson of Captain Joseph and Hannah (Lyman) Clapp, of Easthampton, born on March 29, 1792. A brother graduated at Williams College in 1835; Sumner G. Clapp (Yale 1822) was a first cousin.

In the fall of 1810 he entered the Sophomore Class of Williams College, and a year later transferred his relation to Yale, but on account of health was absent for the most of the ensuing year, and then dropped into the next class.

He graduated with the expectation of studying law in Litchfield, but his plans finally changed from the effect of the mortal illness of his classmate Hopkins.

During the winter after graduation, he taught school in South Hadley, and in the fall of 1815 he began the study of theology in Schenectady, N. Y., where he spent a year, for the first half-year under the direction of Professor Andrew Yates (Yale 1794), and for the second under President Nott. He next spent about six weeks with the Rev. Evan Johns, M. A. (honorary Yale 1809), of Canandaigua, for instruction in Hebrew; and then entered the Seminary at Andover.

At the close of his first year there he accepted the offer of a place as private tutor in Lexington, Ky., with the expectation of resuming his work at Andover.

On his way to Kentucky he was licensed to preach, in October, 1817, by the Hampshire Association of Congregational ministers.

After a year and a half of employment in Lexington, Ky., he went in May, 1819, to Louisville, where he occupied himself in teaching a small school, and in preaching as opportunity offered.

He went thence at the close of 1821 to New Orleans, where he was engaged to preach for a few weeks in the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church, which had been vacated by the death of the Rev. Sylvester Larned, a former classmate of his at Williams College. He began preaching there on February 24, 1822, and in March he was unanimously called to be their stated supply. He accepted the call, in the spring came north, and was married in Louisville, on May 31, to Adeline Hawes, who was originally from Boston. On September 12 he was ordained in his native town by the Hampshire Association.

He then returned to New Orleans, and began his ministry. In October, 1823, he was received as a member of the Presbytery of Mississippi.

Notwithstanding his eloquence in the pulpit and his devotion to duty in times of epidemic, he soon fell under the suspicion for lack of conformity to Presbyterian standards and after a series of complaints of his orthodoxy, the Presbytery finally proceeded to his trial in 1832, and

deposed him from the ministry in January, 1833.

A majority of his parishioners supported him in forming an Independent Unitarian Society, of which he should be pastor. A church building was provided for him by Judah Tours, a wealthy Jew, who when this was burned in 1851, provided another temporary house.

In November, 1846, he was stricken with a dangerous illness, and after his convalescence he went abroad, in April, 1847, for a long rest. A new church was built for him, and finished in 1855, but his health only allowed him to preach in it for a short time.

He resigned his pastorate in 1857, on account of illness, and spent the rest of his life mostly in retirement in Louisville, Ky., where he died May 17, 1866, in his 75th year.

His wife survived him with two of their sons. Two daughters died in infancy from cholera.

His portrait is given in the Clapp Family Memorial.

He published:

1. Slavery: a Sermon (from I Tim. vi. 1-5), delivered in the Congregational Church in New Orleans, April 15, 1838. New Orleans, 1838 80 pp 67
2. A Discourse (from I Cor. xv.22) delivered in Philadelphia, July 18, 1854 at the Funeral of the late Henry D. Richardson, of New Orleans. Boston 1854. 80. pp. 12.
3. A Discourse (from Luke xv. 7,10) delivered in the First Congregational Church, New Orleans, La. (on Christian Sympathy Angelic). Appended to J. B. Ferguson, Spirit Communion. Nashville, 1855. 80. pp. 12.
4. Autobiographical Sketches and Recollections during thirty-five years residence in New Orleans. Boston 1857 120. pp. viii, 419.  
Several editions.  
The book cannot be relied upon as an accurate or consecutive compilation.
5. Theological Views, comprising the Substance of Teachings during a ministry of 35 years in New Orleans. Boston 1859 120. pp. 355  
In part a reproduction of sermons published in the New Orleans Picayune from 1849.
6. The following volume issued by himself, also contains large contributions from him:

A Report of the Trial of the Rev. Theodore Clapp, before the Mississippi Presbytery, at their sessions in May and December, 1832.

New Orleans 1833 80. pp xiv, 374

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Authorities:

E. Clapp Memorial 77, 86-87, 347-48  
T. Clapp, Autobiographical Sketches  
Lyman, History of Easthampton, 148  
Sparks, Memories of Fifty Years, 451-59.

FROM Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale  
College. Vol. vi pp. 632-35.  
Franklin Bowditch Dexter  
Yale University Press  
New Haven 1912.

1819 THEODORE CLAPP:

"Theodore Clapp" by Henry Wilder Foote.

An article in the Unitarian Historical Society Proceedings Vol. III Part II 1934 is a very complete account of his life.

He graduated from Yale in 1814, "In the fall of 1815 he went to Schenectady, N.Y., where he spent a year in the study of theology under Professor Andrew Yates and President Eliphalet Nott of Union College." pp.15 and 16.

The article covers pp. 13 to 39 inclusive.

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Born Easthampton, Mass., March 29, 1792  
Yale 1814  
Andover Theological Seminary, non-graduate 1819.  
Ordained Easthampton September 12, 1822  
Pastor First Presbyterian church, New Orleans, La.,  
1822-34 and Unitarian church 1834-57  
Without charge Louisville, Ky., from 1857  
Died April 17, 1866.

General Catalogue 1808-1908      p. 54  
Andover Theological Seminary

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Son of Thaddeus and Achsah (Parsons) Clapp was born at Easthampton, Mass., March 29, 1792 and died May 17, 1866.

He graduated at Yale College in 1814; studied theology at Andover; was licensed to preach as a Congregational minister in 1817.

He was author of "Theological Views" and "Autobiographical Sketches and Recollections during a thirty-five years' Residence in New Orleans."

FROM Record of the Clapp Family in America  
Ebenezer Clapp  
David Clapp & Son Boston 1876.

Theodore Clapp 1819

Theodore Clapp

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