

Reuben Sears supplied the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church at Ballston Centre, N. Y. for some time. This was during periods of vacancy from 1815-1816, and from 1829-1831.

He was the son of Sunderland Sears of Ballston.

From: "An Historical Sketch of the
Presbyterian Church of Ballston Centre, N. Y."
by the pastor, Alex. S. Hoyt
September 22, 1875
printed by Waterbury & Inman
Ballston N. Y., 1876

Material Copied by Raymond C. Darden, 03

Chronicles of Saratoga

Ballston Spa Took Early Spa Success from Saratoga

By JEAN MCGREGOR

FIRST days of Ballston Spa and the fame of its mineral waters antedating the success of Saratoga Springs as a resort for travelers to take the waters, come to light in a publication by a Union College graduate of 1798, which has come into our hands this week through the courtesy of Mrs. E. Howard Eddy, East Van Dam Street.

"A Poem on the Mineral Waters of Ballston Spa and Saratoga with Notes Illustrating the History of the Springs and Adjacent County," by Reuben Sears, A. M., will eventually find its way to the shelves of the historical room of the public library. It is one of many early histories being assembled by the City Historian, Mrs. Walter A. Britten, for that room.

Mr. Sears was graduated from Union College in 1798, according to Farmers Graduates of New York and New Jersey Colleges. The book neatly bound with hard board cover was printed by James Comstock in 1819. Mr. Comstock was at that time the owner of The Saratoga Register or Farmers Journal (now the Ballston Journal) and had a printing establishment in connection with his paper.

In his preface, Mr. Sears says that the idea for a poem giving the history of the celebrated waters of Ballston and Saratoga occurred to him several months ago (1814).

"The mineral springs," says Sears, "lie in two valleys formed by streams which run into the Kayaderoseras. The first valley is situated in the town of Milton contiguous to the north boundary of the town of Ballston from which latter town, as having originally comprehended them, the springs have received their name.

"In this valley several springs are situated. The Public Spring, which was first discovered, stands in the highway near the bend of the valley towards the east and about a hundred rods further down, is Low's spring on the private property of that gentleman (Nicholas Low)."

At that time, according to Sears there were two springs near each other with waters similar.

IN August, 1817, Mr. Sears records the discovery of another spring, near the Public Spring, and called the Washington Fountain.

From a letter published in the New York Evening Post Sept. 28, 1818, written by Dr. William Mead to the editor, Mr. Sears quotes:

"The Washington Fountain is so highly charged with carbonic acid gas and contains also so much iron, that it may be ranked in the first class of tonic remedies, but at the same time, it is one the use of which requires much caution. I have never as yet met with, nor have I heard of any water that so nearly resembles the waters of Germany as the Washington Fountain."

CONTINUING from Mr. Sears' poems and notes: "The name of Ballston belongs strictly to a town about 5 miles square the a part of the village, the principal portion of which lies within the adjacent Town of Milton. The proper name of the village is Ballston Spa by which name it was incorporated in 1807 and put under government of three trustees, annually chosen."

The village of Ballston Spa then (1819) he describes as having 112 houses. There were 614 inhabitants. "It is a place of considerable business throughout the year—there are at present (1819) five large stores, for the sale of dry goods and groceries, an extensive hardware and a druggist store, two painting offices and a book store with which is connected for the accommodation of strangers a circulating library and reading room."

Mills had been erected on the Kayaderoseras; the Court House of the county was then "a large brick edifice, newly erected and well built."

He lists two houses for public worship, an academy, several inns, three large boarding houses "expressly designed for the accommodations of strangers at the season of the general resort."

His comparisons with Saratoga Springs for the same year (to be reviewed in next week's Chronicle) show Ballston Spa to be more thriving and prosperous.

The first settlements were made at Long Lake (now Ballston Lake) by Nicholas and Michael McDonald from Ireland in the year 1763 and were the only white families until 1770 when the Rev. Eliphalet Ball, from Bedford, Westchester County, and Epenetus White from Connecticut "moved in and settled themselves down in the wilderness." In two years the number of families amounted to 20. Mr. Ball was encouraged to settle in that place by the proprietors of the land who presented him 200 acres, and to him was given the honor of naming the town. He was related to the mother of General Washington, his father and Mrs. Washington, being first cousins.

COMMENCEMENT of the village at "Ballston Springs may be dated about the year 1787" says Mr. Sears. "The township of Ball-

ston lying to the south of those had been then settled 17 years, and the springs known to the inhabitants 16 years. Settlements had early advanced within a short distance of the springs; but as the object of the inhabitants was agriculture and the springs lay in a low, swampy piece of ground, surrounded by land in those days altogether uninviting to the farmer as the springs were not immediately known abroad, like those of Saratoga, and the Revolutionary War soon came on, no one was induced to settle himself down on a spot destined to become so famous in a little time.

"When, therefore, the waters began to be frequented, some of the visitants would take lodging at the distance of two or three miles while others brought their own provisions and erected tents for themselves at the springs."

IN 1787 a man by the name of Douglass purchased 100 acres of land adjoining the Public Spring on the west, the land on the East being in the possession of Nicholas Low. Esq. Douglass then built a log cabin on the flat near the spring in which he kept a tavern and a small framed house, containing four rooms he afterwards built for the reception of people who furnished their own victuals. Not far from this, Michael Benedict opened a tavern and took boarders about one mile south from the springs. In 1792 Douglass erected what was then considered a large house, 40 feet by 30 with the addition of a kitchen. That year, Mr. Low also caused a house to be built of the same dimensions, immediately contiguous to the Public Spring on the East.

In addition to these Salmon Tryon built, likewise on the hill south of the spring, a log house, to which he added a small framed house consisting of one room and one bedroom and also a store for the sale of dry goods and groceries, with which building he was able to accommodate a few boarders. These edifices with two or three log-houses to the East were all the buildings then existing in what now constitutes the Village of Ballston Spa."

THE houses of Douglass and Low, Mr. Sears adds, were erected in 1792 but not finished until the following year when James Merrill residing in the village took the latter. In 1794, Merrill built on the flat south of the spring, a small framed house which he leases to visitants who furnished their own provisions. He had many guests that year from Philadelphia, Hartford, Boston and even from the West Indies. Merrill's house afterward passed into the hands of two brothers by the name of McMaster, who built large additions and did a large business.

In 1801, Stephen H. White built an addition to a small house, and the following two years added additions until he had a large boarding house. "The spacious and elegant hotel, called the Sans Souci was erected in 1803 by Mr. Lowe and has ever since (1819) attracted the public attention in the highest degree."

The Sans Souci had a glamorous resort history prior to Union Hall and the United States Hotel of Saratoga Springs. It was associated with the "golden days" of Ballston Spa for nearly a half century. It was 150 feet long with wings 10 feet from each end 150 feet, and stories housing 250 guests and in 1867.

REUBEN SEARS

In 1802, Dec. 5, Rev. Reuben Sears was engaged for the term of six months, at the end of which time he was unanimously elected pastor (First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, N. Y.), and settled with a salary of \$500 per annum.---his successor was ordained and installed on Nov. 21, 1810.

History of Columbia Co.N. Y. p. 183
Everts & Ensign
Philadelphia 1878.

CLASS OF 1798

REUBEN SEARS

Son of Sunderland and Mary (Andrus) Sears.

Born November 22, 1778

Died Prophetsville, Illinois, August 5, 1846.

(Brother of William Sears, Class of 1804)

Married November 10, 1803, Sally Fitch, daughter of Captain Eliphalet Fitch, of Canaan, Conn., who died September 5, 1846.

Children:

1. Charlotte, married Hon. Vernon Tichenor, an attorney of Waukesha, Wis.: children, Tichenor: 1. Willis V., lives in Mason City, Iowa; married Helen A. Howard, and had, 1. Vernon Howard; 2. Charlotte Sears; 3. Mary.
2. Mary, married Samuel F. Pruyn of Burkett's Bridge, N. Y. Children: 1. Mary, married Warren F. Caulkins, Anita, Iowa; 2. Sarah; 3. Marion V. S., married -----James of Ireland, Nebr.; 4. Anna is a teacher in Yakima City, Wash. Ter., unmarried; 5. Edward, an attorney in Yakima City; 6. Emma D., married George Schmitz, a merchant in Davenport, Iowa; 7. Fred S., a printer in Clark, Dakota.
3. Catherine, married Hubbard S. Cabot of Prophetsville, Ills.; children: 1. Sarah; 2. Mary; 3. Norman, dead; 4. William.
4. Reuben E., born July 31, 1824.
5. Sarah F., unmarried, lives with her sister, Catherine.

Reuben Sears graduated from Union College and was settled over a church in Hudson for several years, but his health failing, he removed to Ballston Spa, where he wrote a poem extolling the virtues of the mineral waters, which was published in pamphlet form in 1819.

He was afterward settled in Draent, Mass., and in New Scotland, N. Y., and died in Prophetsville, Ills., 1846.

He was a Presbyterian clergyman and one of the most conscientious and devoted persons in existence.

His whole life was made up of untiring effort for the good of men.

He was one of the first to advocate total abstinence.

In one of his early sermons on the evils of intemperance, he depicts the sad condition from this cause existing among the clergy and elders, also the members of the church, and tells them of the ruin and disgrace they are bringing upon themselves and the church:--and here the very first idea of the possibility of total abstinence seems to have entered his mind, as he exclaims: "Brethren, these things ought not to be; far better than such a state of things should exist, would it be for all to even totally abstain from the use of all intoxicating beverages."

CLASS OF 1798--Reuben Sears--2

As an anti-slavery man he was "a thorn in the flesh" of the Presbytery and Synod to which he belonged, by his persistent introduction of resolutions denouncing the institution of slavery as "wrong in principle and opposed to true godliness."

He died in the firm conviction that God would order it otherwise in His own good time.

FROM The Descendants of Reuben Sares (Sears) pp. 211-212
Samuel P. May
Joel Munsell's Sons
Albany, N. Y.
1890.

CLASS OF 1798

REUBEN SEARS

At Prophetown, Illinois, on the 5th Sept. Mrs. SARAH SEARS, in the 61st year of her age, wife of the Rev. Reuben Sears, late of Ballston, who died at the above place on the 5th of Aug. last.

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 407

Rev. REUBEN SEARS, 1798, a resident of Ballston, was a member of the Philomathean Society.

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.

1798

Reuben Sears

"Sunderland Sears was a very worthy man. He had a large family among whom are found those who have till the present loved this church. His son, Rev. Reuben Sears (Union, 1798), preached at Hudson, wrote a poem on the first settlers of Ballston Spa, and after supplied the pulpit of this church. We hoped to see his daughter Mrs. Sprague of Kingsboro with us today. Mrs. Curtis Taylor another daughter is still a member of this church, and never so much at home as when with the good people of Ballston. She is the only person still a member of this church whose parents were members as early as 1780. Mr. Sears died March 20, 1827 at the age of 77." (Isaac How was brother of David How, the grand-father of Elder Sears.)

Page 24, "An Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church of Ballston Centre, N. Y., by the pastor, Alex. S. Hoyt. Delivered in part at the 'Centennial' anniversary of the organization of the Church, September 22, 1875, and supplemented July 2d and 9th, 1876. Printed by Waterbury and Inman, Steam Printers, Ballston, N. Y. 1876."

R. C. D. '03
Feb. 9, 1947

Robert Knell, an Englishman, supplied the pulpit for a brief time after Mr. Donald's departure.

1798 He was followed by Reuben Sears, who became the *fifth* pastor. He never knew when he was converted. Since his earliest recollection he had "felt his heart full of love and joy." He was born at Ballston, Saratoga County, N. Y., and educated at Union College. His divinity studies were pursued under the supervision of President Eliphalet Nott. He first settled at Hudson, N. Y., where he remained about seven years. He then passed seven years preaching at Dracut, Mass. The death of his father obliged him to return to Ballston and assume charge of the family homestead. It adjoined the farm of Edward C. Delavan. As both were total abstainers at a period when such views were in decided disfavor, they braced themselves for their public efforts by frequent councilings. The Home Missionary Society availing themselves of his freedom from a pastoral charge sent him to "the far West"—Michigan. He labored in the new country until almost broken down by sickness, when he resumed farming, first at Ballston and afterward at Galway, N. Y. A call having been extended by the New Scotland Church he accepted it, and was installed the 16th of October, 1836. On all great moral questions his views were radical. In spite of remonstrances he continued to offer anti-slavery and tee-total resolutions before Presbytery, which were always laid on the table. During his pastorate, on the 6th of February, 1844, Stephen Van Rensselaer, fifth Patroon, in consideration of one dollar gave the Trustees a quit claim deed for the Church farm. The parsonage then in use was a building standing on what was always designated as "the Church lot," at present held by Mrs. Katy Coughtry. It was an old house built in 1794, located close by the shed opposite the wheel-wright's shop, and touching on the street. This building was torn down in 1870. The previous parsonage, which had become unfit for occupation, was sold in December, 1841 for thirty-eight dollars, and removed by Robert Hurst. Mr. Sear's ministry seems to date the beginning of the Sabbath School. For nine years he continued to discharge the pastoral duties of this Church. On June 10th, 1845, his connection with us ceased, and he went to Prophetstown, Whiteside County, Illinois, where he died a year later, the 25th of July, 1846. After forty years' work in the ministry his soul passed away so gently, as he was seated propped up in a chair, that his son, a physician, writes: "No one around him was aware of his death for several hours." God has granted signal honor to his character in bringing all his five children to the peace of the Cross; and every grandchild has also given good evidence of conversion.

1834 Gaius Mills Blodgett entered New Scotland under discouraging circumstances. The Church was without preaching services. He begged the privilege of being heard. The financial condition of the Congregation, it was asserted, would not warrant the re-opening of the doors. His perseverance at last secured him a hearing. At the conclusion of his first sermon, the Congregation was asked whether they desired to hear him again. Although no one responded, the Session decided to extend further permission. After a few Sabbaths he became "stated supply," and served in that capacity from June, 1846, until June, 1856. He was descended from Puritan ancestry, being a son of a Congregational minister at Hoosic, N. Y. At

twelve he united with the Church; and about the time that he came of age he had passed through his collegiate course at Schenectady and his theological course (partly at Princeton), and was ready for the active duties of the ministry. Having been licensed by the Presbytery of Otsego, he accepted an invitation to become Chaplain of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica and was ordained as an Evangelist, January 18th, 1846. From Utica he came to New Scotland. During his residence here, in 1848, the old Church building was torn down. The plan for the new edifice threw the south end of the building two feet further to the east than it had been in the old. This required the taking up of the old foundation. Almost two years were spent in completing the new Church, which was finished in 1849. In the meantime services had been held in Raynsford's Hall, occupying the present site of Mrs. Reed's wagon house. The new Church had forty-eight pews with doors. The ladies by their effective zeal raised money through a Fair for the upholstering. A second Fair was held and resulted in the purchase of heaters. Mr. Blodgett upon leaving New Scotland, preached with success in the Presbyterian Church at Farrington, Illinois, 1857—1858; and then at Stone Araba, N. Y., in the Reformed Dutch Church. For a time he was engaged in a Church building enterprize at Hicksville, L. I. The outbreak of the Rebellion sent him into the U. S. Army as a Chaplain. Six months after the cessation of hostilities he was mustered out of service. Being unfitted by the hardships of war for the continuous work of the ministry he accepted in 1867, an appointment of Government to the Consular service in Canada. With improved health he resigned that position, and in 1870 became stated supply for the Congregational Church at Wading River, L. I., where he labored for nearly five years.

1853
Mr. Blodgett's active efforts had given fresh life to the Church, when in 1856, Walter Powell of Washington County, N. Y., a graduate of Union College, temporarily supplied the pulpit. He had been two years at Princeton Seminary, whither he soon returned to complete his theological course after having spent his vacation in laboring here. The call which was extended to him, he declined. He was ordained at Lancaster, Penn., on the 9th of July, 1857. At the age of thirty-eight he died, 23rd of July, 1868.

Mr. Powell seems on the one hand, to have conveyed word to the Seminary concerning the desirableness of our vacant pulpit, and on the other, to have suggested a name to the Session of a suitable person for the vacancy. In consequence John James Cameron, his classmate at Princeton, came here and preached. He had been licensed the 14th of May, 1857. On the 29th of November, 1857 he became by ordination and installation the *sixth* pastor. He was born at Fondas Bush (Broad-albin) Fulton County, N. Y., and educated at Union College. His ministry here extended until 19th of August, 1860, when his health became poor and he resigned. While in charge of a Classical school at Saratoga Springs, the Rebellion of the South began. Upon the organization of the 17th N. Y. Vol. Regiment, popularly known as the Bemis Heights regiment, he was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant, the 21st of November, 1861. He died in the field of duty, 15th of May, 1862, a victim to the

malaria and exposure of the camp. A happy assurance of faith crowned with joy his last hours upon earth.

The *seventh* in the line of the pastorate was Samuel L. Gamble. For five generations on both sides his ancestry were pure Scotch. His father was a farmer of influence in Franklin County, Penn. He was born 10th August, 1831. At the age of fourteen he determined to leave home and shift for himself. To this proposal assent was given by the father, who supposed that his son would soon tire of his new project and return home. He did not tire of it however, but spent some years engaging in whatever occupation would pay. He worked on a farm, taught school, acted as clerk in a dry-goods store, served in a coach making establishment, and became a builder of fanning mills. While so situated, a desire to study for the ministry, which he had entertained since he was twelve years of age, resolved itself into a fixed determination. His father's death now occurred, and all unaided he carried himself through a nine years' course of study at Tuscarora Academy, Lafayette and Jefferson Colleges, and Princeton Seminary. In April, 1861, he preached twice in New Scotland, and the second time accepted the call which was offered him. Presbytery ordained and installed him 27th August, 1861, and dissolved the connection between him and the Church, 12th December, 1867. He then assumed charge of the 1st and 2nd Presbyterian Churches at Stillwater, N. Y., where he remained two years. In May, 1870, he was made pastor of the Reformed Church at Guiderland Centre, N. Y., where he still remains.

It was during the time of James William Edie, the *eighth* pastor, that the dimensions of the church building were increased by an addition of sixteen feet. At the General Assembly, meeting in Albany in 1868, Mr. Edie was present as Commissioner from the Presbytery of New Castle. He was invited during the session of that body to preach before this Congregation. Upon complying with the request he made so favorable an impression that he received an unanimous call. The death of both his parents when he was but two years old, placed him in care of his grandparents. He was brought up in York County, Penn. He entered Hanover, but graduated from Washington College in 1859. The Presbytery of Donegal gave him license to preach. His first charge, assumed in 1862, was at Penningtonville, Chester County, Penn. With the exception of the period spent as an Agent of the Christian Commission, when he went into the field of battle to minister to the needs of wounded soldiers, he remained there until the 10th of November, 1868, when he became pastor of this Church. The expense of the addition to the building was about \$4,000.00. It secured sixteen new pews, increasing the number to sixty-four. The walls were frescoed, the wood work freshly grained, and new upholstery supplied the place of the old. At the same time we came into possession of our communion set and pulpit chairs, the gifts of friends in New York City. On 18th September, 1870, Mr. Edie's connection with this Church ceased. For two years he was District Secretary of the American Tract Society, located at Coatesville, Penn. In 1872 he took charge of the Presbyterian Church at Ebensburg, Penn., where he laboured until his death, the 10th September, 1874. His widow and four children are now living at Atglen (Penningtonville), Penn. His death was attributed to

excessive exertion and exposure, as he attempted missionary work in the destitute sections near his Ebensburgh charge. His preaching was earnest and eloquent, and his energy untiring. It was to him that we are indebted for the plank walk running through the village. Our system of benevolence was better developed under his care than at any time previous.

William C. Handy, now in charge of the Reformed Church, at Schoharie Court House, N. Y., was installed the *ninth* pastor, 3d July, 1871, and was granted a dissolution by Presbytery the 10th February, 1874. He was born on the eastern shore of Virginia, August the 10th, 1835, and spent his boyhood in Somerset County, Md., where his father was a lawyer of marked distinction. He prosecuted his studies at Princeton College, N. J., and Dansville Theological Seminary, Ky. He married a daughter of Robert Breckinridge, the famous statesman, preacher and theologian of Kentucky. The Presbytery of Baltimore licensed him 15th April, 1857, and in October of the same year ordained him, installing him over the Church at Lewes, Delaware. In 1859, he left this field for Canton, Miss., where his ministry lasted until February, 1861. From that time until the Fall of 1865, he preached for the two Churches of Buckingham and Eden, in Maryland. He was then laid aside, as he thought permanently, by follicular laryngitis. But his health improved and he resumed work in New Scotland.

The present pastor was licensed by Albany Presbytery 12th June, 1872, and was ordained and installed 10th December, 1874.

Two features of our history as a Congregation now demand our attention, the *religious* and the *secular*. The first Lord's Supper found twenty communicants present. The record of the third communion speaks of fifty persons who were examined and admitted to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper by Mr. Arnold. At one season during Mr. Holliday's time fourteen united. Under the preaching of Mr. Donald sixty-three were received on profession of faith, within fourteen months. The largest addition under Mr. Sears, was twenty-four; under Mr. Blodgett, twenty-nine; under Mr. Cameron, forty-three; and under Mr. Gamble, fourteen.

During the summer and fall of 1874, the Church was without a pastor. At that time the most memorable revival this Church has ever enjoyed, prevailed with surprising power, and sixty-four at the first opportunity confessed their faith in Christ. Among all histories delivered before a thousand congregations today, no fact will be more interesting than that our *pastorless, country* Church, sustained meetings every night for over five successive weeks; and was so baptized from on high, when no especial interest existed in neighboring Congregations, that a larger number than ever before were enrolled among the members of Christ's body here.

While we have had many times of refreshing from the Lord, there has in no case been more than one revival during any single pastorate. That there have been periods when our spiritual life was at a very low ebb, is apparent from our records and the published documents of Presbytery. The Session has more than once felt obliged to make especial effort and wait upon members who neglected the ordinances, and Presbytery in 1820, when deep feeling prevailed elsewhere throughout this section, stated: "We have nothing good to report from New Scotland, but much to



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Chronicles of Saratoga

Sans Souci Rendezvous of Fashionable

(Second of a series of the elegant Sans Souci, Ballston Spa.)

By EVELYN B. BRITTEN
City Historian

WEALTH, fashion and culture met in the elegant rooms of the famous Sans Souci, at Ballston Spa in the first half of the 1800's.

Dr. John H. Steel, who became president of Saratoga Springs in 1827, serving nine years, and who also served as town supervisor, postmaster and was one of the founders of Masonry in June 1808, further verifies the success of Ballston Spa as a watering place.

One of the first physicians to use the mineral waters of Saratoga Springs for curative purposes, prior to 1838, Dr. Steel wrote a book, Analysis of the Mineral Spring Waters of Saratoga and Ballston.

In this Dr. Steel in part wrote:

"The settlement at Saratoga received a check from the discovery of the springs at Ballston about the year 1787. Situated in the midst of a flourishing country, these springs had advantages which were not at that time possessed by Saratoga. These advantages were eagerly embraced by the proprietors of the lands on which the springs were situated, good houses of accommodations were erected and other improvements made with great rapidity.

"The Saratoga Springs continued to languish under the neglect of the owners until 1802 when the valuable qualities of the Congress Spring induced Mr. Putnam (Gideon Putnam) to whose enterprise the public are largely indebted, to erect a large entertainment house near it, since which time the waters of Saratoga have gradually gained a celebrity that appears as firmly as it is justly established."

JAMES STEWART, an English traveller, toured the States in 1823 to see at first hand something of the fame of the two great resorts, Ballston and Saratoga.

He subsequently published his Impressions (in part): "On the 31st of October, we changed our quarters from Saratoga Springs to Ballston Spa, in a pleasant situation, in a hollow surrounded on all sides by high grounds. The Kayaderosseras, a small river, runs through the village which contains 800 to 1,000 people.

"There are only two great hotels here, The Sans Souci, which is on the largest scale and Mr. Aldridge's. There are several small hotels and boarding houses. The baths are as good as at Saratoga Springs."

IN 1811, seven years after the Sans Souci was built, a circular of the hotel announced very definite regulations among which were:

"Gentlemen on their arrival are requested to insert their names in the register, kept in the office for the purpose; also the names of the whole of the party individually, and number of servants, after which they will please to make choice of their bedrooms.

"Terms of board

"Ten dollars per week, two dollars a day for a shorter period. Children under 12 years of age and servants, half price.

"Breakfast for servant and help, 6; dinner, 1; supper, 6. Hour of breakfast is 8 o'clock; bell will be rung. Dinner at one hour previous a preparatory two with the same notice at one o'clock; Supper at seven with like notice at six."

"Price of liquors was given and included among the listed: old Madeira, \$3; port wine, \$2; champagne, \$3; Burgundy, \$2; brandy, \$1.50 1-2; cider, 37 1-2 cents; mixed liquors, glass, 12 1-2 cents.

Continues the circular:

"To prevent mistakes arising from waiters not understanding the names of gentlemen calling for liquors at the dinner table, each waiter will be provided with cards and pencils. Gentlemen, when they want anything will demand a card and pencil

and insert it thereon with their signature.

"Ladies and gentlemen are requested not to enter the dining room while the waiters are placing the dinner on the table. The bell will give due notice when ready. To prevent annoyance to the ladies, neither drinking nor smoking will be allowed in their drawing rooms.

"Gentlemen will please to give timely notice of their departure as frequent mistakes are made in bills for want of time to make them out.

"Persons bringing their own liquor will pay one dollar for each bottle opened. Gentlemen who drink liquor at the bar are requested to pay for same when they receive it.

Ballston Spa, July 1, 1811.

Andrew Berger

BEAUTIFUL elm trees surrounded the hotel, rising majestically above a perfectly kept lawn comprising two acres, laid out in attractive walks which led to the Sans Souci Spring located in the hotel grounds.

The Ballston Journal of May 1873 reminisces thus on the glories of The Sans Souci: "The Sans Souci has a history. When first opened in 1804, it was the largest and best appointed hotel in the country. It immediately became the resort of health-seekers, tourists, fashionables, politicians, statesmen, jurists, and merchant princes. . . . Hundreds of eminent men and high officials in every state in the Union came here and booked themselves, not for a week, but for two or three months, their families sharing with them the recreations and pleasures of the season."

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"The mineral springs," says Sears, "lie in two valleys formed by streams which run into

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Sears lists "two houses for public worship, an academy, several inns, three large boarding houses. Mills had been erected on the Kayaderosseras and the Court House was a large brick edifice, newly erected and well built."

REUBEN SEARS.

He was followed by Reuben Sears, who became the fifth pastor. He never knew when he was converted. Since his earliest recollection he had "felt his heart full of love and joy." He was born at Ballston, Saratoga Co., N. Y., and educated at Union College. His divinity studies were pursued under the supervision of President Eliphalet Nott. He first settled at Hudson, N. Y., where he remained about seven years. He then passed seven years preaching at Dracut, Mass. The death of his father obliged him to return to Ballston and assume charge of the family homestead. It adjoined the farm of Edward C. Delevan. As both were total abstainers at a period when such views were in decided disfavor, they braced themselves for their public efforts by frequent councilings. The Home Missionary Society availing themselves of his freedom from a pastoral charge sent him the "the far West"---Michigan. He labored in the new country until almost broken down by sickness, when he resumed farming, first at Ballston and afterward at Galway, N. Y. A call having been extended by the New Scotland Church he accepted it, and was installed the 16th of October, 1836. On all great moral questions his views were radical. In spite of remonstrances he continued to offer anti-slavery and teetotal resolutions before the Presbytery, which were always laid on the table. During his pastorate, on the 6th of February, 1844, Stephen Van Rensselaer, fifth Patroon, in consideration of one dollar gave the Trustees a quit claim deed for the Church farm. The parsonage then in use was a building standing on what was always designated as "the Church lot," at present held by Mrs. Katy Coughtry. It was an old house built in 1794, located close by the shed opposite the wheel-wright's shop, and touching on the street. This building was torn down in 1870. *****Mr. Sear's ministry seems to date the beginning of the Sabbath School. For nine years he continued to discharge the pastoral duties of this church. On June 10th, 1845, his connection with us ceased, and he went to Prophetstown, Whiteside Co., Ills., where he died a year later, the 25th of July, 1846. After a forty years work in the ministry his soul passed away so gently, as he was seated propped up in a chair, that his son, a physician, writes: "No one around him was aware of his death for several hours." God has granted signal honor to his character in bringing all his five children to the peace of the cross; and every grandchild has also given good evidence of conversion.

History of the Presbyterian Church
at New Scotland, N. Y.
(Discourse delivered July 2d, 1876 by
Rev. James G. K. McClure)
Albany 1876

p 30

1798

Aug 1855

To

R. Sears

of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1798

(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 Quinipick, 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 Presbyterian Church till 1825. He 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 Suncok, 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.

Ruben Sears

[Let this be written plainly and the *middle* names in full.]

II. Names of both Parents; thus:—

[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

Sunderland Sears & Mary Andrus

III. Birth Place.

Ballston Saratoga Co. N.Y.

Birth Day and Year.

Nov 22. A.D. 1778

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:—

[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New-York City, 1830-54.]

*At Ballston until 1798. Hudson N.Y. 1804-10. Ballston Spa
1810-21. at Draent Map 1821-27. Golway N.Y. 1827
-1836. At New Scotland N.Y. 1836-45. with Prophet, then Ills
from 1845 to 46. the time of his decease*

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:—

[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1815-17.]

Schenectady Grammar School

VI. At what College he graduated, and when.

at Union College May 1798.

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.]

Taught Grammar School at Schenectady

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.]

Theology 1798 to 1802, with Eliphalet Lott D.D.

IX. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:—

[Eps., Somerville, N. J., 1827-30; Pres., Albany, N. Y., 1830-5; New-York City, 1835-54.]

*Was pastor of Presbyterian Church Hudson N.Y.
from 1804-1810. At Draent Map Pres. Church 1821 to 27
At New Scotland N.Y. 1836 to 1845.*

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—

[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Genesee, N. Y., 1835-54; or Manufacturer, Schoharie, N. Y., 1841-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.]

*Farmer at Ballston & Golway N.Y.
from 1827 to 1836.*

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:—

[S surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1838-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.

[Copies are solicited for the "Graduates Alcove" in College Library.]

The last few years of his life were devoted to a work upon the divinity of Christ which has never been published but is now in manuscript.

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

Vernon Tichenor

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.]

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him?

[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.]

*He died upon the 5th day of Augt 1846 of
Disease of the Heart at Prophetstown
Illinois. Through life he was an humble
& devoted Ambassador of Christ. Ever willing
to spend & be spent in his service. He was
aware of the approach of death & longed to
be with Christ his master. He was found
resting as in a deep sleep, a few hours after
his decease. A happy smile still upon his
countenance - saying sleeping sweetly in Jesus
He died in the 68th year of his age. having been in the
ministry about 45 years—*

XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

He was a man of saintly piety. Remarkable
for his ~~devotion~~ ^{intensity} & strict regard for
truth & right. His Ministry was blessed to
the conversion of many souls.
During the ~~pursuit~~ ^{pursuit} of Cholera in 1835
he acted as Missionary in various parts
of Michigan - & saw so much suffering with
the false gentles of the West that he was
satisfied until he ~~conquered~~ ^{conquered} the

XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

The family originates from the Puritans
The branch to which he belonged was settled
in New Jersey. His father was one of the first
settlers of the town of Ballston with his wife
He died 51 years upon the old Homestead

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 Oron Smith, Banker, Chicopee, Mass., died 1848. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]

address
R. Sears
Bear Creek
Towamogus Co.
Iowa

Reuben Sears AB 1798

Reuben Sears

F.B.
1798