

Was born April 29, 1802, in the old town of Bergen, Hudson Co., N. J., and was the son of Rev. John Corneilson, pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church of that place for 35 years. His preparatory education was obtained in Columbia Academy of his native place, and having subsequently entered Union College, he was graduated therefrom in 1822. He soon after began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Valentine Mott, and in 1825 received his degree of M.D., from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. On entering upon the practice of his profession, he opened an office at Bergen, but his field of labor extended from Bergen Point to Bull's Ferry, including Hoboken and Pankus Hook, and there were but two physicians besides himself within all that territory. In 1840 he removed to Jersey City proper, retaining, however, his old practice, and continuing active therein until 1862, when he withdrew from professional labor.

Notwithstanding his large practice and his devotion thereto, Dr. Corneilson found time for the discharge of public duties, and accordingly we find him, in 1832, a member of the State General Assembly. In 1851 he was appointed by Governor Fort one of the lay judges of the Court of Errors and Appeals, to fill the four year's unexpired term of Hon. Garret Wall. On the expiration of this term he was reappointed for six years, and thereafter for another term of six years, thus holding this important position for a period of 16 years. Prior to the breaking out of the Rebellion he had been a staunch Democrat, but after that event he took his stand in support of the war measure of the Government, and ultimately became a warm Republican. In 1869 he retired from the bench after withdrawing from practice in 1862. In 1873 he was appointed a member of the Board of Works, and was made its chairman. At the time of his death, which occurred May 24, 1875, he was president of the board of regents of the Hudson County Hospital.

FROM: History of Hudson C., N.J.  
Vol. 2 p. 1092  
William H. Shaw, comp.  
Everts & Peck  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
1884.



UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD

1. Name in full John Mesier Cornelison Class 1822
2. Born on April 29, 1802 at Bergen, New Jersey  
(Give date and place in full)
3. Residences before entering college.....
4. Prepared for college at Columbian Academy, Bergen, N. J.  
(If entering from another college, so state.)
5. Entered.....(Give year, month and class if not freshman) Course.....
6. Left college Graduated 1822 A.M......(Give approximate time of leaving.)
7. College life. Under each head state kind of activity, any office held, and college year in which active or held office, thus (1) freshman, (2) sophomore, (3) junior, (4) senior.
  - a. Athletic teams (class or varsity).....
  - b. Other activities (member or officer debating team, musical or dramatic association, press club, Concordiensis or Garnet boards, etc.).....
  - c. Fraternity, literary or social organizations of which a member.....
  - d. Class offices.....
  - e. College prizes and honors.....
8. Study at other institutions after leaving Union (how long and where) Studied under Dr. Valentine Mott, and received diploma from College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1825.
9. Degrees (with institutions granting them and dates).....
10. Class reunions attended.....
11. Commencements attended.....
12. College reunions and dinners attended.....
13. Member of..... alumni association (if officer state office and date held)
14. Postgraduate office held in class or college organization (member or officer Graduate Council, Trustee of Union, class president or secretary, etc.).....
15. Relatives (own or wife's) at Union (name, relationship, and class) William H. Cornelison, brother, Died May 14, 1828
16. Parents' names in full (with country of ancestry, college, occupation, residence, date of birth and death, and other important facts.)
  - a. Father Rev. John Cornelison, A.M., born 1770, pastor Dutch Reformed Church, Bergen for 35 years; died March 20, 1828, Married May 12, 1795
  - b. Mother Catherine Mesier
17. Brothers and sisters: (name, date of birth and death, college if other than Union)
  - John b. February 24, 1794 d. Feb. 26, 1796
  - Mary M b. July 31, 1797 d.---
  - Elizabeth b. Aug. 6, 1804
  - Wm. Henry b. April 23, 1807, d. May 14, 1828
  - Helen Amelia b. Jan. 8, 1811 d. Oct. 18, 1836
18. Married Aeltje Van Winkle of..... on May 22, 1826  
(name of wife, date and place of marriage; if wife dead, date of death)
19. Children (name, date of birth, college, if other than Union)



20. Business and professional career, business or professional connections and positions held. (Give each in order with dates when held and place.)

Practicing physician, Bergen and Jersey City 1825-1862

Member N. J. Assembly 1832

1851-67, lay-member N.J. Court of Errors and Appeals

Democrat before Civil War; then changed to Republican and ardent supporter Union policies.

1869 Mayor of Bergen;

1873 president, Board of Public Works, Jersey City

President of Board of Regents, Hudson County Hospital at time of death, May 24, 1875

21. Public positions held in civil life (with dates.) (Include such positions as trustee, director, vestryman, etc.)

22. Military history and titles (with dates). (If in army or navy, enter under 20.)

23. Professional and scientific organizations of which a member.

24. Social, civic, and literary organizations of which a member.

25. Literary productions (with date of publication and name of publisher).

26. Religious denomination

27. Political preference

28. Recreations

29. Other facts or remarks

30. Addresses; residential, (a), business (b), with (c) dates when occupied. (Check the address to which mail should be sent.)

a. ....	b. ....	c. ....
a. ....	b. ....	c. ....
a. ....	b. ....	c. ....
a. ....	b. ....	c. ....
a. ....	b. ....	c. ....
a. ....	b. ....	c. ....
a. ....	b. ....	c. ....

Forwarding address, by which can always be reached

31. Sources of information. A—self; B.....; C.....; D.....; E.....

Use these reference letters in checking any information given above and add date; thus A 1|19|20—information furnished by self Jan. 19, 1920. Use extra pages if necessary, numbering answers to correspond with numbers of questions on sheets. Answer all questions noting any you might not wish published.



CLASS OF 1822

JOHN M. CORNELISON

A son of Rev. John Cornelison, pastor of the Old Bergen Church, was born in Bergen, now Jersey City, April 29, 1802. He was educated at the Columbia Academy, Bergen, and Union College. He graduated in 1822, and studied medicine with Dr. Valentine Mott, and received his diploma from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1825. He gave up practice in 1862. Hewas a member of assembly in 1832. In 1851 he was a lay judge of the court of errors and appeals and held the position sixteen years. In 1869 he retired from the bench and was elected Mayor of Bergen. In 1873 he was president of the Jersey City board of public works. He died May 24, 1875.

FROM History of Jersey City, N. J. p. 231  
Alexander McLean, Compiler.  
Jersey City 1895.

*How.  
Med.  
Rutgers  
Medical  
School  
1829*

A. D. CORNELISON, 1802-1875  
JOHN MESIER CORNELISON,

Bergen, N. J.

Born at Bergen, N. J., Apr. 29, 1802. A. B. (Union, 1822).  
Member, N. J. Assembly, 1832. Lay Judge, Court of Errors and  
Appeals, 1851-67. Mayor of Bergen, 1869. Died, May 24, 1875.

*p. 226  
Rutgers cat.*

CLASS OF 1822

JOHN M. CORNEILSON

Died at his residence in Jersey City, 24th May 1875, aged 73 years. He was a member of the District Medical Society of the County of Hudson from its commencement, and may almost be called its founder. He was a very popular practitioner and had the unbounded confidence, not only of the profession, but of all with whom he was associated. He filled several offices of trust and honor to the satisfaction of his constituency, one of which was one of the Judges of the Court of Errors and Appeals, the highest court in New Jersey, from 1850 to 1855.

Transactions of the Amer. Med. Assn.  
Vol. 27 p. 653  
1876.

JOHN MESIER CORNELISON, A.M., 1822, of Bergen, N.J., was a member of the Adelpic Society.  
Adelpic Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1875)



John M. Cornelison, M.D., ex-President of the Jersey City Board of Works, died yesterday at his residence in Jersey City Heights, at the age of 74 years. Dr. Cornelison was born on April 29, 1802, in the former town of Bergen, and was the son of the Rev. John Cornelison, who officiated as pastor of the Bergen Reformed Church. In 1819 he entered the Sophomore Class in Union College, and was graduated with honors in 1822. In the same year he entered the office of Dr. Valentine Mott, and received his diploma as a practicing physician in 1825. His first field of labor extended from Bergen Point to Bull's Ferry, and every day for a long time he went over the ground, a distance of 16 miles.

In 1836 he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for Congress, but was defeated by Dr. Acrige, a Whig. During President Van Buren's term he was appointed Deputy Collector for Jersey City, but soon after resigned the position. In 1851 Governor Fort of New Jersey appointed Dr. Cornelison one of the six lay Judges of the Court of Errors, to fill the four years of the unexpired term of the Hon. Garret Wall, and during his term of office the Harmon-Thorn case, involving \$7,000,000, was decided in favor of Mr. Thorn, though Dr. Cornelison voted against the decision. When the late Civil War began, Dr. Cornelison became at once a warm supporter of the Administration, and soon identified himself with the Republican party, and remained one of its members until his death. In 1869 he was elected Mayor of Bergen, and retired from the judicial bench. In 1873 the Legislature appointed him a Commissioner of the Board of Works, and the Board elected him President. The Republicans nominated him for Mayor of Jersey City, but he was defeated by Henry M. Traphagen, the present Mayor. At the time of his death he was President of the Board of Regents of the Hudson County Hospital. The funeral will take place on Thursday, from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, of which the deceased had been a member since 1867.

New York Daily Tribune  
May 25, 1875  
p. 7 col. 2.