

CLASS OF 1807.

NICHOLAS VAN VRANKEN.

MARRIED: In this city on Thursday evening, by the Rev. Mr. Van Vechten, Mr. Nicholas Van Vranken, to Miss Jennet M'Clelland, daughter of the late Dr. William M'Clelland, of Albany.

The Cabinet  
Schenectady  
December 22, 1819.

*1807 Nicholas Van Vranken is the grandfather of  
Nicholas Van Vranken 1875 - who should be able  
to fill out that name -*

CLASS OF 1807

NICHOLAS VAN VRANKEN

Son of Maas and Ariantje (Van der Volgen) Van Vranken  
Born April 7, 1791

Was a graduate of Union College, and a practicing  
physician; but disrelishing the profession, he became  
first a distinguished teacher, and subsequently a much-  
esteemed merchant of Schenectady. He filled many offices  
of trust, and married Jennet, daughter of William McClellan,  
M. D., of Albany.

He died January 29, 1864.

Mrs. Richard Franchet is one of his children, and Mrs.  
John Hillhouse is another.

Early History of Schenectady

John Sanders

p. 145

Van Vranken, Nicholas, 1807

4/19/1855

-entered college at 12, graduated at 16. Pearson calls on him for recollections;  
"When entered college, he said, "I had read but one book outside of my regular text  
books and that was 'Robinson Crusoe'." His tender age and inexperience and diffidence  
prevented him from receiving the advantages that usually follow a collegiate education  
and when he left college he confesses he was only fitted to enter again, with any  
hopes to profit to himself..."

Pearson diaries V.4-a

The long typewritten page  
is the life of a different N.  
Van Vranken, not the one  
who was in the class of 1807.  
1807 Nicholas could then be  
born in 1762 & just starting  
college in the 1800's.

RAE 3-14-1995

## NICHOLAS VAN VRANKEN

b. at Schenectady, 1762; studied under Dirck Romeyn and Livingston,  
 l. by the Synod of R.D. Chs. 1790; Fishkill, Hopewell, and New Hacken-  
 sack, 1791-1804, d.

He was a man of fine attainments, literary and theological, a fervent and eloquent speaker, and a most devoted servant of God. After completing his preparatory studies, he became principal of a flourishing academy in his native city, continuing in that position for six years. This academy was the germ of Union College. The records of his churches so far as preserved, show numerous additions, evidencing that his labors were blessed. He was possessed of strong affections, ardently attached to his charges, no inducement prevailing with him to sever his connection with them. He declined calls from Albany and Schenectady. The change of language, from the Dutch to the English, took place in his charges during his ministry. His knowledge of his people was so complete, and his tact so great, that when, according to ancient custom, the communicants stood around the pulpit to receive the sacramental elements from the hands of their pastor, he adapted his remarks to the circumstances of each. His quick eye took in in a moment individual peculiarities, and he also spoke to them in Dutch or English, as they were best able to comprehend the one or the other. Tradition represents him as a most faithful, devoted, and dearly beloved pastor. One of his elders in Poughkeepsie once said to him, "Domine, I hear that a great woe has been pronounced against you, a woe upon the very highest authority--woe unto the man of whom all speak well." His personal appearance was very prepossessing; he was gentlemanly in his manners; his conversational talent was finely developed, enabling him to make the best possible use of a large fund of chaste anecdotes, and rendering him a most agreeable and instructive associate to all classes. He never lowered his ministerial character, though he richly enjoyed a jest. Tradition also tells a story, illustrative of his humor. Having visited one of his parishioners, as he was about leaving, the latter said, "Domine, the next time you come bring a bag and I will fill it with oats." On his next visit he did take a bag, but it was of unusual dimensions, two large sheets having been sewed together for the purpose. His friend took the sack, and paying the Domine in his own coin, filled it with oats in the sheaf. His final sickness was very violent and rapid. Most of his people had not heard of it until, on Sabbath, when waiting for his entrance as usual into the church, the messenger brought tidings of his death.-- "Kip's Hist. Des. at Fishkill."

Manual of the Reformed Church in America p. 862  
 Corwin  
 1628-1902

Van Vranken, Nicholas  
From: Schenectady, N.Y.  
Last residence: Schenectady, N.Y.

07

Records show one  
Nicholas Van Vrankin  
Surgeon's Mate, 2nd Regt. (Van Hook's)  
N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Sept 7, 1814  
Expiration of service: Dec. 3, 1814

Nicholas Van Frankem - AB-1807

*Nicholas Van Vranken* A. B. 1807