America's First "Junior College", the Episcopal Academy of Connecticut. By Glenn Weaver. pp. 18-21

"The college recognized the quality of the Academy's instruction by granting third year standing to the graduates of the classical department, and during Tillotson Bronson's term as principal to Yale or Union was made with remarkable ease and frequency," (Some) examples of the transfer students.

Alpheaus Geer, Ep. Ac. 1812; Union 1813
Samuel Todd, Ep. Ac. 1814; Union 1816
Friend Cooke, Ep. Ac. 1817; Union 1819
Sherlock James Andrews, Ep. Ac. 1819; Union 1821
Mr. Jonathan Pearson.

Dear Sir,

Having had reference to the Family Record printed and answered the inquiries contained in your last letter, I find that my Father was born at Brooklyn, Windham County, Connecticut, instead of Groton as it was stated in my reply to your said letter. If it be too late to make the correction, perhaps the error is not material.

If you will now on at any future time favor me with a copy of your publications, I will readily return same for a specified, reasonable compensation.

I am far from your very respectfully,

Mr. Jonathan Pearson.

D. W. Geer, Esq.
Staffed Student Services

Dr. Geer was among the first to hold special services for students on campus and on dates near St. Paul's. During the World War he organized special services for nurses preparing to serve with the American Army overseas and also helped to establish special low-priced rail for soldiers and sailors. Another achievement was the founding of the Business Women's Club, an organization of women working in offices in the adjacent financial skyscraper section. The club formerly met in the old parish house on the church grounds, which since had been torn down.

Dr. Geer, a descendant of early New England and Colonial stock, was born at Bath Spa, X. Y., on April 9, 1844, a member of a family long noted among the Episcopal clergy. He was the son of the late George Jacob and Isabelle Montague Geer. His father for many years was rector of Zion and St. Timothy's Church, New York, and his grandfather, the Rev. Alpheus Geer, Jr., was rector of St. John's Church, Watertown, Conn.

Dr. Geer was a direct descendant of George Geer, who came to the United States in 1635 from Devonshire, England, settling in what is now New London, Conn. On his maternal side he was descended from Richard Montague, who emigrated from Buckinghamshire, England, to become one of the first settlers of Hadley, Mass.

Member of New York Bar

Dr. Geer received his bachelor's degree from Columbia College in 1869, a master's and a degree in arts in 1870 and in 1875 after private study, he was admitted to the New York bar. He was graduated in 1878 from General Theological Seminary. Two years later he married Miss Katharine Oriel Throop, of New York City, eldest daughter of the late Erce Thompson and Cornelia Oriel Throop and a great-great-grandson of former Erce F. Throop, first Governor of New York State.

Before going to St. Paul's, Dr. Geer had been at Christ Church, Oyster Bay, L.I., for eight years. Previously he had been rector at St. John's Church, North Adams, Mass., and assistant to the late Rev. Henry F. Satterlee, at Weeping Pines, N.Y. He was consecrated a deacon in 1872 and made a priest a year later.

Dr. Geer was trustee of General Theological Seminary from 1892 to 1913, and formerly was vice-president of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He was also president of the Century, Governors Island and Savannah-Corinth Yacht Club, of which he was once fleet chaplain.

Dr. Geer died in 1906. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Harker Talcott and Mrs. Martin Le Boultier; four sons, Francis, Harlow, William Montague, Jr., all of New York City, and Erce Throop Geer, of Garden City, L.I. A sister, Mrs. Lewis A. Cohn of New York City, and a brother, Alpheus Geer, of South Orange, N.J., also survive. Dr. Geers eldest daughter, Mrs. Elzoth Hersey Goodwin, died about two years ago.

Emeritus Head of Chapel

Since 1918 in Active Service There 30 Years

Funeral services for the Rev. Dr. William Montague Geer, T. D., vicar emeritus of St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway and Vesey Street, since 1918, and before that an active member of the church's staff for thirty years, who died of bronchial pneumonia Saturday night at his home, 110 East Seventy-sixth Street, after an illness of two weeks, will be held tomorrow noon at the church. He was eighty-six years old.

Officiating at the services will be the Rev. Dr. Frederic S. Fleming, rector of Trinity Church, Broadway and Wall Street, and the Rev. Dr. Joseph F. McComas, vicar of St. Paul's Chapel. Bishop William T. Manning also is expected to attend. Burial will be private in Woodlawn Cemetery.

A member of the Protestant Episcopal clergy since 1875 and former president of the New York Churchman's Association, Dr. Geer joined the staff of St. Paul's in 1889 as an assistant minister. He became vicar six years later and held this post continuously until 1918. After his retirement from active service Dr. Geer became president of the board of trustees of the Trinity School and St. Agatha's School, heading both from 1920 to 1925.

During his long years as vicar, Dr. Geer introduced many innovations at the historical chapel. He organized the first weekday services for office workers and business men at St. Paul's and also the first midday services, held for many years at 2:30 a.m. for printers, newspaper men and other workers employed at night.
Son of Elijah and Phebe (Dye) Geer; was born at Kent, Conn., Aug. 7, 1788; died at Norwich, Conn. 

He received his education at Union College, Schenectady, New York, and then studied for the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church. For a great many years he was the beloved rector of St. John's Church, in Waterbury, Conn., and when he died in Norwich was the oldest clergyman of that faith in the State of Connecticut. He is credited with having presented for confirmation the largest class ever prepared by any clergyman in any church of the Episcopal faith in Connecticut up to the time of his death. He was esteemed as one of the most energetic in the entire priesthood, and his congregations were highly appreciative of his remarkable industry. 

He married Sarah Whiting Marshall. 

Children: 


Gen. & Family Hist. of Southern New York 
Vol. III p. 1853 
Cuyler Reynolds 
1914.

Rev. ALPHEUS GEER, 1815, a resident of Kent, Conn., was a member of the Philomathean Society. 

(Died: 1866)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.
CLASS OF 1813

ALPHEUS GEER

Was born in Kent, Conn., 7 August, 1788; died in Norwich, Conn., 3 February, 1868; married 29 November, 1815, Sarah Whiting Marshall, of Torrington, Conn. He was graduated at Union College, 1813; ordained deacon in 1814, and priest in 1815. He was rector of St. John's Church, Waterbury, Conn., and of one of the smaller out-lying parishes, for eighteen years. He was the last of the clergymen of St. John's who joined the care of some other parish to his regular ministerial work. This was the period which marked the transition in Connecticut from an agricultural condition to one in which manufactures became the dominant interest. He was also the last rector of that parish who depended on the cultivation of the land for a portion of his income. The cultivation of the glebe land, and their own land, by the early New England Ministers furnished an important part of their support. In those days a settlement was regarded as for life, and a grant of land was usually a part of the settlement; so that in many cases, similar to his, the clergy were considerable land holders and successful cultivators. On 20 October, 1816, he presented to Bishop Hobart of New York, then acting Bishop of that diocese, which was temporarily without a Bishop, a class of two hundred and twenty-six for confirmation, this being with one exception the largest class confirmed by Bishop Hobart.

Children:

1. Mary Jane, born 2 October, 1816; married Nathan S. Gilbert, 24 December, 1842.


FROM

GENEALOGY OF THE GEER FAMILY IN AMERICA

Compiled by Walter Geer.

Tobias A. Wright,

New York, 1914.