

1827

May 29 1855

To *Wm. W. Campbell* of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 18 *27*

(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 Quinnebeck, 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 Suncook, 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 (?) and on the margin.

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.

1. Name. *William W Campbell*

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

II. Names of both Parents; thus:—

[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

*James S & Sarah (Elderstein) Campbell*

III. Birth Place. *Cherry Valley, Otsego Co. N.Y.*

Birth Day and Year. *June 10<sup>th</sup> 1806*

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:—

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

*Cherry Valley with exception of absence at college till 1831 & since 1831 in City of New York*

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

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

*Cherry Valley Academy where I school there*

*till I entered college in 1825. Last Principal was John A. Cogswell*

VI. At what College he graduated, and when.

*Union College in 1827.*

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 a District school in Ontario County in Vermont in 1827 & 28 for six months*

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:—

[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1829-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.]

*Studied law principally in Cherry Valley with Abraham Stewart and in New York City with Judge William Kent & Samuel A. Foot. Charles Kent having also an office*

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

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

*In the City of New York since 1831.*

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.]

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

[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1839-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]

*Master & Chancellor in 1840-41-42. Elected to Congress from the 6<sup>th</sup> District in City of New York in 1844 (29<sup>th</sup> Congress). In 1849 was elected a Justice of the Superior Court and has since been on the Bench till present time 1855.*

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

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

*Annals of Tryon County or Bruden Moss of New York. Life of Mrs. Nichol S. Grant Ingham & Ferris. Life & writings of De Witt Clinton. Historical sketches of Robin Hood & Capt. Kidd. Notions & oddities &c.*

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

*Robert Campbell (Uncle) Alfred E. Campbell (brother) Samuel B. Campbell (brother) Samuel Campbell (cousin) William Campbell (cousin) Theodore Campbell (cousin)*

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.]

*Trustee of Union College in 1847. I think*



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

Trustee of Univ. College since 1847

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

My family come from Scotland originally. First settled in North of Ireland, and were known as Scotch Irish Presbyterians. Came to this country in the early part of the last century first settled at Londonderry in New Hampshire. In 1741 removed to Cherry Valley.

My mother was of the Elderkin family in Windham Connecticut - a grand daughter of Col Sedwick Elderkin of Dyer & Elderkin Messrs.

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

S Joseph Lamm of my class 1827 - died some years ago in this city. Was a very able man. He was a brother of the present well known George Lamm of this city.



1827 WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL.

MARRIED:-On the 8th inst, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. G.N.Nichols, the Hon. William W. Campbell, to Catharine A., daughter of Jacob Livingston, all of Cherry Valley.

FROM: Schoharie Republican  
December 11, 1856.



Tocqueville and Beaumont's papers showed, for instance, that they were fairly being pursued by William W. Campbell,\* an earnest young man who had just finished studying law under Chancellor Kent and writing a History of Tryon County. One day this future jurist (who was, incidentally, interested in the Temperance movement) called their attention to some almshouse and hospital statistics in the evening paper; on another he sent them an article just published on the penitentiary system in Pennsylvania, and offered to be their guide to the almshouse and penitentiary in New York.

\*Wm. W. Campbell, 1806-1861, in his career jurist, historian, Congressman, member of Native American party.

Tocqueville and Beaumont in America  
p. 62  
George Wilson Pierson  
Oxford University Press  
New York  
1938.



William W. Campbell, jurist, congressman and author, was born at Cherry Valley, Otsego co., N. Y., June 10, 1806. He was graduated at Union College in 1827, and studied law with Judge Kent, of New York city. In 1831 he began the practice of his profession. In 1841 he was appointed master in chancery, and in 1842 commissioner of bankruptcy for the southern district of New York. As a representative of the national American party he served in congress from 1845 to 1847, and took a prominent part in reforming the consular service. He then spent a year in Europe, and on his return was appointed a justice of the superior court of New York city, holding this position from 1849 to 1855. In 1857 he was elected a judge of the supreme court of the state, for the 6th district, remaining on the bench until 1865. Judge Campbell was the first jurist to hold, under the statute enlarging the legal rights of married women, that a man could convey an estate directly to his wife without the intervention of a trustee. He published several biographical and historical works: "Annals of Tryon County; or, the Border Warfare of New York" (1831; new eds., 1849 and 1880); "Memoirs of Mrs. Grant, Missionary to Persia" (1840); "Life and Writings of DeWitt Clinton" (1849); and "Sketches of Robin Hood and Captain Kidd" (1853). He died at Cherry Valley, Sept. 7, 1881.

The N. C. of A. B., Vol. XI, Page 445.



WILLIAM W CAMPBELL, '27,

was born at Cherry Valley, N. Y., June 10th, 1806.

In College, he was one of the founders of the Sigma Phi Society.

He studied law with Chancellor Kent and began practice in New York City in 1831. He was appointed Master in Chancery in 1841, afterwards Commissioner in Bankruptcy; and was a member of Congress from 1845 to 1847, when he effected great reforms in the Consular system; afterward traveling for a year in Europe. In 1848 he was elected Judge of the Superior Court of New York City; and soon after the expiration of his term of office, in December, 1855, he returned to Cherry Valley

and to the acres which his great-grandfather had bought from the aborigines. In the fall of 1857 he was elected Judge of the Supreme Court of New York for the Sixth Judicial District; also serving in the Court of Appeals. Judge Campbell was the author of "Annals of Tryon County, New York," 1831; new edition, revised, entitled "Border Warfare, New York," 1849; "Life and Writings of De Witt Clinton," 1849; "Sketches of Robin Hood and Capt. Kidd," 1853; "Life of Mrs Grant, Missionary to Persia," 1840. He was also a frequent contributor to magazines and periodical literature, his writings being principally historical sketches, especially of New York State. He received the Degree of LL.D. from Union College.

In politics he was a Whig, Native American and Republican.

He was a member of the Presbyterian church, of the purest character in every relation, as a citizen, legislator and judge. In his last months he took special pleasure in studying the Bible and in religious conversation. His health had been failing for some time and he died of paralysis, at Cherry Valley, Sept. 7th, 1881, in his 76th year.

He leaves a wife and three children, his eldest son, having died from the effect of wounds received before Petersburg.

his parents who settled in Chester County, Pa.; attended the  
CAMPBELL, William W., a Representative from New York; born in Cherry Valley, N. Y., June 10, 1806; attended the common schools; was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1827; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1831, and commenced practice in New York City; was appointed master in chancery in 1841; commissioner in bankruptcy; elected by the American Party to the Twenty-ninth Congress (March 4, 1845-March 3, 1847); was not a candidate for renomination in 1846; justice of the superior court of New York City 1849-1855; returned to Cherry Valley in December, 1855; judge of the Supreme Court for the Sixth District of New York 1857-1865; retired from public life; author and engaged in historical work; died in Cherry Valley, Otsego County, N. Y., September 7, 1881; interment in the Cherry Valley Cemetery.

✓  
Congressional  
Biographical  
Dictionary  
p. 74

WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL, Esq; , 1827, of Cherry Valley N.Y., was a member of the Adelpic Society.  
Adelpic Catalogue 1830  
(Died: 1881)



CLASS OF 1827

WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL

Born in Cherry Valley, Otsego County, New York, June 10, 1806; died there September 7, 1881, was graduated from Union College in 1827 and studied law under the direction of Chancellor Kent. Removing to New York he entered upon legal practice in 1831. In 1841 he was appointed master in chancery, and in 1842 commissioner of bankruptcy for the southern district of New York. He served a term in congress (1845-47) as a representative of the national American party, during which he took a prominent part in effecting reform in the consular service. From 1849 to 1855 he was a justice of the Superior Court of New York City, serving contemporaneously with Duer and John L. Mason. He was a justice of the Supreme Court for the 6th judicial district from 1857 to 1865.

He was the first judge who held, under the statute enlarging the legal rights of married women, that a man could convey real estate directly to his wife without the intervention of a trustee. He was the author of several historical and biographical works: "Annals of Tryon County, or the Border Warfare of New York" (1831, republished in 1849 and 1880), "Life and Writings of De Witt Clinton" (1849), "Memoirs of Mrs. Grant, Missionary to Persia" (1840), and "Sketches of Robin Hood and Captain Kidd" (1853).

History of the Bench and Bar of New York Vol. 1 p.278  
New York History Co.  
1897

C.....\*WILLIAM W CAMPBELL. 1827

Born June 10, 1806, at Cherry Valley, N. Y.; Died Sept. 7, 1881, at Cherry Valley.

Entered 1825, from Cherry Valley.....A. B. 1827; LL.D. 1860; ΦBK; its Orator 1844; its President (Alpha of New York) 1855-57.

A Founder of the Gamma of New York.

Ε φ  
Counsellor at Law. Admitted to the Bar in New York City 1831; practiced there 1831-55.

ca. 1891  
Judge Superior Court, New York City, 1849-55; of Supreme Court, State of New York (6th District), 1857-65 (residing at Cherry Valley); Member XXIX U. S. Congress; Member New York Assembly 1869.

Trustee Union 1848 until his death; Visitor Nott Prize Fund 1855 until his death.

Author of "Annals of Tryon County, N. Y." (New York, 1831); revised edition, called "Border Warfare," (New York, 1839), and third edition, "The Border Wars of New York" (Cherry Valley, 1880); "Memoirs of Mrs. Grant, Missionary to Persia" (1840); "Life and Writings of De Witt Clinton" (1849); "Sketches of Robin Hood and Capt. Kidd" (1853).



Prepared like all his brothers at the old academy and was graduated in 1827 at Union College, of which he has been for many years a trustee, as well as one of the three visitors of the Nott Trust Fund. He pursued his legal studies in the office of the eminent Chancellor Kent, whose firm friendship was of great service to the young lawyer. In 1830 a society of literature and historical research was formed at Cherry Valley, out of which grew his labors on the "Annals of Tryon County," and a number of other works of a historical and biographical character, whose value led to his being made a member of the New York Historical Society.

In 1843 he was elected to congress from the city district in which he resided, and in 1848 one of the justices of the superior court. After visiting Europe he retired to Cherry Valley, but was called forth to active life immediately in 1857, when he was chosen a judge of the supreme court of New York. Judge Campbell's interest in his native village and its old church has ever been peculiarly earnest, and he takes just pride in his own and his family's long and honorable connection with them. He labored zealously to secure the construction of its railway, and for that service, as well as for his long and persistent efforts on behalf of the cause of education among us, with the others who have shared his labors, we owe him lasting obligations. The lovely maples of his farm, which has long served in place of a park or common to the village on festal days, a favorite resort for the stroller or the picnic-party, was the scene of a grand ox-roast and jubilation on the occasion of the completion of the railroad, the locomotive as it passed the margin of the grove waking the echoes with its shrill whistle, and the hills giving back the unwonted sound with a clearness that seemed like the welcome to a fresh era in their long existence, and a new page in the history of the place. \*\*\*\*\* -



CLASS OF 1827

W. W. CAMPBELL

When the bloody and bitter persecutions of the seventeenth century were dividing poor Scotia into fragments, and banishing her sons to other and more peaceful climes, the ancestors of the subject of our present sketch took a last, long, lingering look at the lovely purple heather of their native hills of Argyleshire, and fled for refuge into the north of Ireland. The Campbells of Scotland, - there a well-known and honored name, celebrated both in song and story, - trace back their genealogy for more than eight hundred years. Of that portion of the family which fled to the north of Ireland, some emigrated to this country during the earlier part of the eighteenth century; and James Campbell, the great-grandfather of the subject of this present sketch, settled, with a number of his compagnons du voyage, at a place in New Hampshire which they named Londonderry. We find them, however, among the earlier settlers of this Empire State, for this same James Campbell, not satisfied with his New Hampshire home, removed into this State in 1741. The beautiful valley of the Mohawk was at that time a luxuriant wilderness, peopled only by the red man and his prey, save where a few German families were scattered through it. Here he made his home.

Colonel Samuel Campbell, the son of James, was a well known patriot of the war of the Revolution. He was an active and efficient citizen during the French war, and during the Revolution a garrison reared its protecting head upon his farm. He distinguished himself in the bloody battle of Oriskany. His son, James S. Campbell, the father of the subject of our sketch, lived in more peaceful days. He married a daughter of Colonel Elderkin, of Windham, Conn., with whom he settled amid the lovely surroundings of Cherry Valley, in this State, where on the 10th day of June, 1806, a son was born to him. This son, now Hon. William W. Campbell, is the subject of this present brief memoir. The subject of our sketch, naturally of a studious disposition, was early placed at the Cherry Valley academy; leaving which he entered Union college, Schenectady, from whence he graduated in 1827. After leaving college he entered the office of the distinguished Chancellor Kent, and upon completion of his legal studies was admitted to the practice of his profession, which he prosecuted with vigor and success.

In the fall of 1830 a society was formed in Cherry Valley for literary purposes, but especially for collecting the natural and civil history of that section of the country. The subject of our sketch, having been requested to collocate and embody the results of these investigations, conceived the idea of writing a history of the town. On examination, however, he found its Revolutionary history so intimately connected with that of the whole valley of the Mohawk, that he abandoned his original intention and commenced his work entitled "Annals of Tryon County, or the Border Warfare of New York."



This is one of his best works, indicating great research, and containing much valuable historical information. Besides this work, the subject of our sketch has also produced the "Life and Writings of De Witt Clinton," "Life of Mrs. Grant," a missionary to Russia, "Life of Robin Hood, of Captain Kidd," etc.

Besides his published works, the subject of our sketch has delivered a large number of orations and addresses, equally distinguished for ability and crudition. In 1839 he delivered an address before the historical society of New York city on the life and military services of Gen. James Clinton. On the 4th of July, 1840, he delivered the centennial address at the celebration of the citizens of Cherry Valley. The oration was very fine, and was enthusiastically received by an immense audience. But meanwhile he had by no means neglected the practice of his profession. In 1841 Governor Seward appointed him master in chancery, and in 1842 he was further appointed commissioner of bankruptcy for the southern district of New York. About this time the political interest of the subject of our sketch received an awakening. In 1843 he was elected by the American and Whig vote to a representative seat in the congress of the United States, where he succeeded in effecting great reforms in our consular system. In July, 1845 he delivered an oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of his alma mater, Union college. In 1848 he, together with John Dean and John L. Mason, were elected jutices of the superior court of the State of New York by a very large majority.

Subsequently, the subject of our sketch visited the Old World; not the least interesting portion of which to him were the misty, purple hillsides and placid cold-blue lakes of the land of his fathers. While there it was his good fortune to be present at a reception of the present beloved sovereign of Great Britain, an occasion which brought together all the Scottish clans, and among the rest the one from which he is descended. They gave him a cordial Scottish welcome. At a grand dinner given by the Celtic society, upon the beautiful lawn of the ancient castle of the duke of Argyle, the following beautiful incident occurred, illustrative of Scottish character;

The president of the society, alluding to the subject of our sketch, stated that there was one among them who had long been a wanderer from the Highland flock; who, indeed, now placed his foot upon the ancestral soil for the first time. He stated that his ancestors, nearly a century and a half since, had been driven out of Scotland by persecution for conscience' sake, and that he was the first of his immediate race who had returned to the land of his forefathers. Belonging by blood as he did to a very old branch of the powerful clan of Argyle, the president trusted that the society would adopt the nation he had to make, which was that the gentleman should be elected an honorary member of the society.



The motion was adopted by acclamation, and the health of the new member drank with Highland honors. Each chieftain, standing with his left foot upon his chair and his right resting upon the edge of the table, carried his glass slowly round his head with his right hand, repeating in Gaelic, after the president, "Neish, neish, sheel orra, neish!" (now, now, here's to him, now!) ; after which the old piper of the Marquis of Breadalbane, who had been an attentive listener, struck up the stirring tune of the clan's song at the gathering in 1745-

"Oh, you're long in coming, but you're welcome," etc.

In 1857 the subject of our sketch returned to Cherry Valley, where immediately after and without solicitation, he was nominated and triumphantly elected a justice of the supreme court. The office sought him almost immediately upon his return to his native town. No small tribute this to the legal ability and erudition of the subject of our sketch, and an unanswerable testimony to the warm admiration of his neighbors and fellow-citizens.

The subject of our sketch is possessed of a large and commanding person and fine presence. He has great abilities as a public speaker, with a full and free flow of chaste and eloquent language. He is a kind neighbor, a true and unwavering friend, and above all-that noblest work of God -an honest man. Too old himself to buckle on his armor and mingle in the martial strife of the late Rebellion, he sent his three sons to the army, and also contributed liberally, both of money and effort, to help on the war.

Though somewhat advanced, as years go, the subject of our sketch is, by his active and untiring energy, still in the redundant prime of life. Active in every good work, esteemed by all who know him, may he yet add many years of usefulness to those already so honorably spent.

From History of Otsego County P-138-139-140  
Hurd  
Everts & Fariss, Philadelphia, 1878



YON COLLEGE  
CONNECTICUT



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK (1855).

John Slosson.

Joseph S. Bosworth.

John Duer.

Thomas J. Oakley, C. J.

William W. Campbell. (l. 6 '27)

Murray Hoffman.

ucsl04827campbell-w-0013



CLASS OF 1827

WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL

born in Cherry Valley, Otsego county, New York, June 10, 1806; died there September 7, 1881. was graduated from Union College in 1827 and studied law under the direction of Chancellor Kent. Removing to New York he entered upon legal practice in 1831. In 1841 he was appointed master in chancery, and in 1842 commissioner in bankruptcy for the southern district of New York. He served a term in congress (1845-47) as a representative of the national American party, during which he took a prominent part in effecting reform in the consular service. From 1849 to 1855 he was a justice of the Superior Court of New York City, serving contemporaneously with Duer and John L. Mason. He was a justice of the Supreme Court for the 6th Judicial district from 1857 to 1865.

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History of the Bench and Bar of New York Vol. 1 p. 278  
New York History Co.  
New York  
1897.



New York July 26 - 1850

Rev. A. Burtis -

My dear friend.

I have just returned from  
Schenectady - I thought found  
some name for a use and  
was handsomely supported by Dr  
Van Richten & Bishop Potter  
and it was carried namina  
Centricollicter - I tender you  
my sincere congratulations -  
Dr. Nott was also very kind  
in the matter -

Please present my



Congratulations to Mrs Dr  
Burtis - and let her me  
your true friend

William W Campbell

Wm. W. Campbell  
July 26. 1852



27

William Campbell of N.Y. City and Cherry Valley, N.Y. (father of Douglas Campbell). Born in Cherry Valley, N.Y., June 10, 1806, died in Cherry Valley Sep. 7, 1881, grad. Union College 1827, studied law under Chancellor Kent, practiced in N.Y. City, Member of Congress, 1843, judge of Superior Court, N.Y. 1846-55, judge of Supreme Court 1857-65, Author of "Annals of Tryon Co.," "Life of Hellitt Clinton," "Robin Hood and Captain Kidd," and "Life of Mrs. Grant." M. Aug. 13, 1833, Maria Starkweather of Cooperstown, N.Y.

(Am. Ancestry, V. 8, p. 156, 1893.)



William W. Campbell (June 10, 1806-Sept. 7, 1881), jurist, historian, and Congressman, had a lifetime of association with Union College. Born and raised in Cherry Valley, N.Y., Campbell's grandfather Samuel was one of the earliest settlers in the area, and served as a colonel under General Herkimer during the American Revolution. Samuel's young son James was captured and taken to Canada at the time of the Cherry Valley Massacre, but was later exchanged. James married Sarah Elderkin, and William was one of their eight children. William attended Cherry Valley Academy, a school founded by Eliphalet Nott, and entered Union in 1825, graduating in 1827. After a brief stint as a teacher, Campbell took up the study of the law under Chancellor William Kent, and began his practice in New York City in 1831, while maintaining a residence in Cherry Valley as well. He was appointed master in chancery in 1841 and commissioner in bankruptcy in 1842; and from 1849-1855 he served as a justice of the superior court of New York City. From 1855 to 1857 he was elected as a judge of the Court of Appeals, and from 1857-1865 he was a justice of the state supreme court. Campbell was also very active in politics, first as a Whig, then as a Native American, and finally as a Republican. While in the Native American (or Know Nothing) Party he served in Congress from 1845 to 1847. During the 1840's and 1850's Campbell was a leader and spokesman for the party in New York State. The Native American Party began in New York in 1843, opposing the ease with which immigrants could secure suffrage and public office, and Campbell was the first candidate of the New York Party to be elected to a national office. In 1855 Campbell was elected a judge to the Court of Appeals as a candidate of the American Republican Party (the name the Native American Party assumed), and in 1856 Campbell served as the presiding



officer of the party's state convention, which agreed to support the Republican ticket. This led to a split in the Party and its rapid dissolution.

While at Union, Campbell was a founder of the Sigma Phi Society, and a member of the Adelpic Society. Two of his brothers (Alfred and Samuel), an uncle, and three cousins also attended Union, with his Uncle William serving as a trustee for many years. William W. Campbell was appointed a college trustee in 1847, a position he held until his death. He also served as Phi Beta Kappa orator at Union in 1844, and president of the chapter from 1855-1857. He received an LL.D. from Union in 1860. William married Maria Starkweather and they had five children, three of whom attended Union (Cleaveland, Colin, and Douglas).

In addition to his other activities, Campbell was a popular speaker and historian. His most significant works are The Annals of Tryon County (1831), on the Revolutionary War in central New York, The Memoirs of Mrs. Grant, Missionary to Persia (1840), The Life and Writings of Dewitt Clinton (1849), and Historical Sketches of Robin Hood and Captain Kidd (1855). Many of Campbell's letters, financial records, manuscripts and papers are in the New York State Historical Association Library in Cooperstown, N.Y.

— Willis Monie



William Campbell A.B. 1827



William Campbell 1827  
F.B.