To Jonathan Denise Ledyard of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1812
(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 is 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 "Graduate's 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 Quinapack, 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 Helderberg 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 Hoeven, 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 1833–11; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842–6. He died June 50, 1848, of cholera, aged 40 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 Hemshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1788; parents, Joseph and Madeleine (Hemshaw) 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, 1828, at Marlborough, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1829. He was Pastor of the Ist Congregational Church of Hasbrouck, Conn., 1829–30; 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 "Communian'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 Harwood 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 1796; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Peck, of Can_almost; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in Le Rhone, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813–15, and returned to practice at Othbary in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1823–5, 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, and another of the same size, if possible, leaving an upper 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.
I. Name. Jonathan Denison Ledgare

II. Names of both parents; given: Benjamin and Catherine (Foman) Ledgare

III. Birth Place. Millstone Point, Shrewsbury Co., N.J. Birth Day and Year. June 10, 1793

IV. Various residences and dates; thru: Parents removed in 1794 to village of Aurora in town of Ledgare, Cayuga Co., N.Y. J. D. came in 1801 to Cayenovia, Madison Co. He resided there since.

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thru: At Albany with Dr. J. H. Whipple, afterwards at Whitebore with Mr. L. Calley, and at the Grammar School of Union College.

VI. At what College he graduated, and when. At Union College in 1812

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thru: Teaching Washington, B. C., 1817-18, or Mercersburg, N.C., 1818-19.

VIII. The profession he studied; when; with whom; when; thru: Law; with Childs and Judkins in Auburn, and, with Joseph Kirkland of Utica, Oneida Co.

IX. Where he has practiced his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thru: Before, St. John's, N. Y., 1827-31; Proctor, N. Y., 1830-35; New York City, 1835-64. Never practiced.

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thru: Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1826-35. or Farmer, Granville, N. Y., 1813-14. or Manufacturer, Cayuga Co., N. Y., 1840-42. or President, Ladies' Almshouse, Pillar, N.Y.

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thru: [Secretary of 2 Farmers Co., N. Y., 1836-37 and 1839; Member of Congress, Nat. Farm., N. Y., 1841-42; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1846-47, 51, 53, 55.]

XII. The literary or scientific works he has written or edited; thru: [Copies are desired for the "Graduation Address" in College Library.]

XIII. The names of his relations who graduated at Union College; thru: One son, Ledgare

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received, from whence, with dates; thru: [M.B., from Albany Medical College 1816; L.L.D., Amherst College, 1839, 289.]

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him? thru: [Copy or two copies, together with his autograph, are desired for College Library.]

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death; thru: [Send any preserved notices, biographical sketch, speeches, verses, etc. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions, to which no limit is added before.]

[Signature: Ledgare]
XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

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

Family of English origin, first ancestor in America John Ledyard, immigrated 1730 in thrattle. Residence of family at Southold, Long Island, then at Groton, Conn.; and subsequently in New Jersey, New York, as stated under.

IV. Benjamin Ledyard, lineal descent as follows:

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 D. LEDYARD, Esq., 1812, was a resident of Cazenovia, N.Y., and a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1874)

Philomathean Catalogue 1650.
John D. Ledyard,
married. At Philadelphia, on the 20th inst., J. D. Ledyard, Esq.,
of Cazenovia, state of New-York, to Miss Eliza (?) Stranbridge.—New-York
Advertiser, Oct. 20, 1819.
Was born at Middletown Point, in the State of New Jersey, on the 10th day of June, 1793, and died in Cazenovia on the 7th day of January, 1874.

His father, Benjamin Ledyard, a native of Groton, in the State of Connecticut, as a near relative of John Ledyard, the distinguished traveler, as well as Col. Ledyard, who was treacherously slain in the Revolutionary war, after a gallant defense of Fort Griswold. Benjamin Ledyard himself served with credit as a major during the same struggle, being present at the battles of Monmouth, White Plains and others, and after the war settled in Middletown Point, being engaged, however, in business in the city of New York, as a hardware merchant. In 1794, having been appointed by Gov. George Clinton to the county clerkship of the newly-erected county of Onondaga, then embracing a large portion of western New York, he removed his family, consisting of his wife, eight children, and numerous negroes, to Aurora, on the shore of Cayuga Lake, making the journey from New York to Albany in a sloop, thence by wagon to Schenectady, there taking Durham boats of bateaux on the Mohawk and the Wood Creek, Oneida Lake, the Seneca River and Cayuga Lake to his destination, where a log house, erected upon the very bank of the lake, was ready to receive him. At the tavern at Fort Schuyler, kept by John Post, the party were met by Peter Smith and James S. Kip, and the former took the family to his house, Mr. Kip carrying the baby, then ten months old, up the hill, and finding him no light burden.

The mother of Jonathan D. Ledyard was Catherine Format, sister of General Jonathan Forman, also of Revolutionary memory, who died in Cazenovia soon after the beginning of the present century, and whose tombstone is perhaps the oldest in the village cemetery, and also of Major Samuel S. Forman, who came to Cazenovia with Col. John Lincklaen in 1793, and who, after residing here many years, removed to Syracuse, where he died a few years since at a very advanced age.

The subject of this sketch, upon the death of his mother, which occurred about 1795, became a member of the family of his brother-in-law, the late Col. Lincklaen, and since that time he has been a resident of Cazenovia, and, for many years past, its most conspicuous citizen.

At a very early age he was sent to a family school at Albany, and then kept by the celebrated Dr. Nott, and was afterward placed in a school at Whitesboro, under the charge of Dr. Halsey. He then attended the grammar school of Union College after which he followed the regular course at that institution under the presidency of his old preceptor, Dr. Nott, graduating in 1812. He pursued the study of law in the offices of Childs & Stedbins in Cazenovia, and of Gen. Kirkland of Utica, and was admitted to the bar in 1815.

He never, however, engaged in the active practice of his profession, but soon after arriving at his majority entered the land office of Col. Lincklaen, the agent of, and, in a small share, proprietor, in the Holland Land Co., in Cazenovia. He was soon associated with Col. Lincklaen in the agency, and afterward
in connection with him purchased the interest of the company in the unsold lands and debts of the establishment. The increasing infirmities of Col. Lincklaen, followed by his lamented death in 1822, cast upon Mr. Ledyard, then a very young man, the burden of the entire property, consisting of about 150,000 acres of land, lying in the counties of Madison and Chenango. The depressing effect of the War of 1812 upon the commercial interests of the county, the severity of several untoward seasons, and the opening of the western country to settlement, in consequence of the projection and construction of the Erie Canal, made his task a very heavy one. By great energy, untiring industry, and strict probity he succeeded in meeting his obligations to the company in such a manner as to leave a moderate competence for himself and his family. He at once perceived that a coercive policy would result, not only in the ruin of many settlers upon the tract, but would, in the end, retard the growth of the county, by driving them to settle upon the better but more distant lands of the new States. Accordingly, he forebore, encouraged, assisted, sometimes threatened, but rarely prosecuted, until in 1844, he was enabled, from the payments made to him, to discharge the last installment of the very large debt to the company, incurred upon the purchase of the property, and received a conveyance of the lands not previously deeded. He made himself acquainted with the character, habits, other business and family relations of his clients, many of whom owe their prosperity, in large measure, to his judicial counsel, his gentle reproof, or his warm words of encouragement. He was regarded by the people upon his tract more as their friend and adviser than as their creditor, and there were few who did not look forward to a business visit from him with the pleasurable anticipation with which one expects to meet a valued friend. For a half a century his name has been a household word in hundreds of homes, and his character, manners, and sayings discussed at their firesides and always with feelings of affection and reverence. Of many hundreds of purchasers of land from him there are very few with whom he ever had any dispute, and almost none with whom he ever had any litigation.

From his earliest manhood he was largely interested in improving the thoroughfares of the county. He succeeded Col. Lincklaen as president of the Third Great Western Turnpike Co., a work which was completed in 1810 at a cost of over $90,000, a colossal sum for those days, and, until its dissolution, superintended its affairs with great care and faithfulness. In connection with his son, Ledyard Lincklaen, he was largely instrumental in the construction of the plank road from Casenovia to Chittenango, and he took a warm interest in the completion of the railroad from here to Canastota.

He was largely interested in agricultural pursuits, and was the first president of the Madison County Agricultural Society, founded in 1841, and many persons now living will remember with what zeal and efficiency he executed the function of that position.
In young life, like most young men of that day, he entered the militia of the State, then, in consequence of its meritorious services during the WAR OF 1812, an organisation of great influence and standing. At the annual musters he was brought in close contact with the leading men of this and adjoining counties, and formed many strong and life-long attachments. He took great pride in discharging the duties belonging to his several commissions, and rose to the rank of brigadier-general, resigning his commission in 1825.

But it was not in his business and public relations that Mr. Ledyard’s character was best exhibited. His local and personal attachments were unusually strong, and it is for his personal traits that he will be longest remembered in this community.

Occupying the conspicuous position in the village which he greatly loved, he fairly discharged the obligations connected with his station. He was ever foremost in the support of every project calculated to promote the prosperity or to enhance the beauty of the place. Indeed, it may well be said of him, “Si monumentum quaeris, circumspice,” for there has been scarcely an improvement made in or near the village which does not owe its origin to his forethought, assistance, influence or example.

In every charitable enterprise he was always counted upon as a certain and liberal contributor, and his heart and purse was ever open to the call of every worthy applicant.

Simple in his personal habits, and unostentatious in his mode of life, he ever exercised a generous and graceful hospitality, and, for the last half century, his mansion has not been a day without a fire on its hearth or a hospitable host to welcome a neighbor or a passing traveler within its doors.

His mental and moral qualities were such as to attach to him the warm affection of those with whom he was brought in immediate contact. His kind heart went out to his kinsfolk and friends with a wealth of affection which secured a corresponding return. Gentle in his manners, sympathizing in his emotions, magnanimous in his feelings, just in his dealings and frank in his bearing, he possessed in an extraordinary degree, the affection of his family and friends, which in the latter years of his life ripened into a loving veneration.

Descendants of Jonathan Denise Ledyard and Jane Strawbridge, his wife. Children:

Lincklaen Ledyard (name reversed by act of Legislature, 30 March 1844), to Ledyard Lincklaen) married Helen C. Seymour (only child, Helen, wife of Charles S. Fairchild).

John Denise Ledyard, married Elizabeth Fitz-Hugh (no children survived them).

George Strawbridge Ledyard married Anne Fitz-Hugh. Children: John Denise, Richard Fitz-Hugh, Jane, wife of Eliphalet Remington, Mary Fitz-Hugh, Helen Seymour, Wolters (of whom the first two are no longer living).

Helen married John F. Seymour; no descendants.

I. Wolters married Elizabeth Vanl; only one daughter, Murray.

From: History of Madison Co. pp. 676-678
John E. Smith, President, Historical Society of Madison County.
General Jonathan D. Ledyard, also, was added to the board. The name of General Ledyard deserves a prominent place among the friends and patrons of the Seminary. His history is prominently identified with the history of Madison County. His father, Benjamin Ledyard, was the first county clerk of Onondaga County, which embraced at that time a large part of West New York, being appointed thereto by Governor George Clinton in 1794. Mr. Ledyard's mother died in 1798, which event cast his lot into the family of his brother-in-law, the late Colonel Lincklaen. His early educational opportunities were in a family school at Albany kept by the celebrated Dr. Nott; afterward in a school at Whitesborough, in charge of Dr. Halsey; then at the grammar school of Union College; after which he followed the regular course of that institution, under the presidency of his old preceptor, graduating in 1812. He then read law in the offices of Childs & Stebbings, of Cazenovia, and of General Kirkland, of Utica, and was admitted to the bar in 1815. He, however, never engaged in the active practice of his profession. He was soon drawn into the land office of Colonel Lincklaen, and associated with him in the agency of the Holland Land Company, and purchased, in connection with him, the interest of the company in the unsold lands and debts of the establishment. Upon the death of Colonel Lincklaen, which occurred in 1822, the burden of the entire property, consisting of one hundred and fifty thousand acres of land, lying in the counties of Madison and Chenango, was cast upon him, he being then but twenty-nine years of age. He was a man of great energy, untiring industry, and strict probity; and though the depressing effects of the war of 1812 upon commercial interests greatly embarrassed his business, yet he succeeded in meeting his obligation to the company, and acquired a fine competency for his family. He was largely interested in improving the thoroughfares of the county. He was the first president of the Madison County Agricultural Society, and took a lively interest in its affairs. In early life he entered the militia of the State, and rose to the rank of brigadier-general, resigning his commission in 1828. He took the liveliest interest in the local affairs of the town and village in which he lived. Whatever was calculated to promote the prosperity or enhance the beauty of the place received not only his support, but he was foremost in projecting and effectuating such improvement. In this connection, as well as because of his general interest in the cause of education, the Seminary enlisted his cordial support. Dr. Henry Bannister says of him: "I have been to him many a time for counsel, when any improvement in buildings, grounds, apparatus, library, etc., required the raising of funds, and never failed to find him deeply interested, and ready to put down the largest subscription. Himself and sons, if I remember rightly, gave fully one-third of what was required to build Williams Hall, and to put the chapel building in its present condition. When all was finished, he gave in addition, of his own motive, six hundred dollars for an organ. What gave us all so much satisfaction in his liberality was his own enjoyment of its results upon the institution. He did not tire of asking at almost every interview after the welfare of the school,
and of evincing in his questions a readiness still to
give material aid whenever occasion should call for it."
Mr. Ledyard was simple in his personal habits, unostenta-
tious in his mode of life. He was generous and grace-
ful in his hospitality, warm in his friendships, gentle
in his manners, sympathizing in his emotions, juts in
his dealings, magnanimous in his feelings, and frank in
his bearing; possessing in an extraordinary degree the
affection of his family and friends, which in latter years
of his life ripened into loving veneration. He was born
in Middletown Point, New Jersey, on the 10th day of June,
1793, and died at his residence in Cazenovia on the 7th
day of January, 1874.

First Fifty Years of
Cazenovia Seminary
Cazenovia
1877.
Jonathan Denise Ledyard

Son of Benjamin, was born at Middletown Point, N.J., June 10, 1793, and died at Cazenovia, Jan. 7, 1874. His father served with credit as an officer in the "revolutionary Army and in 1794 settled at Aurora, now in Cayuga Co. His mother was a sister of Gen. Jonathan Forman and to Major Samuel S. Forman, who accompanied Col. John Lincklaen in the settlement of Cazenovia in 1793. After the death of his mother in 1798, Jonathan D. Ledyard was adopted by his sister Helen, wife of Col. John Lincklaen, and given exceptional educational opportunity, which he fully employed, and graduated from Union College in 1812. He read law in the office of Childs & Stebbins of Cazenovia, and in Utica, and was admitted to the bar in 1815. Soon after attaining his majority he entered the land office of Col. Lincklaen, where he succeeded in the management of the Holland Land Company's business in this vicinity, and in 1872 he purchased the remaining lands. These affairs prevented him from enjoying to any important extent in the practice of law. Throughout his life he was a broad-minded and public spirited citizen.

Our County & Its People (Madison Co.)
p. 504
John E. Smith, Editor
Boston History Co.
1899