

CLASS OF 1805

HENRY R. WENDELL

Son of Robert H. Wendell and Agnes Fonda, his wife, was born at the corner of State St., and Mill Lane, Schenectady, (now the Y. M. C. A. property), where his father resided September 18, 1784, and died on College Hill at the Wendell homestead, March 13, 1868, aged 83 years.

His youth was spent in the house of his father at Schenectady, and in the household of General Matthew Trotter, of Albany. He prepared for college at the best schools in Albany, and in due time was graduated from Union College. It is not strange that the son of one Revolutionary patriot and the grandson of another should have inherited a martial spirit, nor that it should have been rendered active and intensified by the events which preceded the outbreak of the war of 1812--1814. He was one of the first to offer his services in defense of his country, and on the 3rd of January, 1812, he was commissioned as ensign in the Sixth Regiment of Infantry. He was placed in charge of a recruiting rendezvous at Schenectady soon afterward, and met with much success in raising volunteers. In July following he received orders to close the recruiting station and join Captain Nelson's company, then lying with other troops at Greenbush. Not long afterward the entire command was ordered to the Niagara frontier, and Mr. Wendell did gallant service and braved many dangers at Black Rock, Queenston, Lewiston and Fort Niagara, and latter at Plattsburg and Sackett's Harbor. He was promoted to be a second lieutenant January 12, 1812 and to be a first lieutenant March 27, 1814. His several commissions are preserved by his daughter, Miss Agnes L. Wendell, and a record left by him shows that he did not terminate his military career until August, 1815, when he was constrained to resign by a probability of being brought into conflict with the civil authorities of Schenectady, near which place he was at that time stationed. Documents, ^{which} are still in existence show that he merited and received the commendation of his commanding officers. After the war he lived for a time at Niskayuna, at Alexander's bridge, (since the construction of the canal called the Acqueduct), where he combined the duties incident to attending to the bridge--store-keeping, farming and tavern keeping. Later he removed to Schenectady and passed the balance of his life on College Hill. November 22, 1817, he was married by the Rev. Charles Stebbins, of Schenectady, to Miss Parmela Perry, daughter of Benjamin and Love Perry, who was born in Salisbury, Conn., April 11, 1790, and died Dec. 18, 1870, aged 80 years.

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Children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Wendell as follows:

Anna Maria, who married Mr. James M. Moyston, and died Feb. 4, 1865;

Margaret, who married Mr. E. Willard Trotter, and died March 13, 1868;

Agnes L., who is still living at the Wendell homestead;
Abby, who died January 5, 1880.

Mr. Wendell is remembered by nearly all of the older residents of the city as one of the few who lived beyond the period of the old Schenectady into the busy, enterprising Schenectady of to-day. He was an interesting conversationalist, and was rich in historical reminiscences of this section. He was a man of good mental ability, high honor and genial social qualities, and it is to be regretted that he was the last male of his family in direct line.

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Portrait faces page 195.

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