

UC5L 1820 denniston. r. 0001

Curatores Collegii Concordiæ QUOD EST Schenectadiæ IN

Republica Novi Eboraci, in AMERICA, Legibus Reipublica constitutum; Omnibus et
singulis has literas lecturis, SALUTEM in DOMINO. Notum sit, quod nobis

placet Robert Denniston juvenem hujus Academia Alumnum, qui probe se
gessit Omniaque studia et Exercitia Institutionis hujusce rite et legitime peregit;

Candidatum primum in Artibus gradum, competentem, examine Sufficiente
approbatum, titulo gradusque Artium liberalium Baccalaurei adornare, eique
Omnia jura, privilegia et alia, ad istum gradum quaquam pertinentia dedimus
et concessimus: Cujus rei, quo major esset fides et testimonium plenius, communis
Nostro Sigillo et Chirographis CURATORUM Prasidis et professorum hujus
ACADEMIÆ, diploma hocce munierendum curavimus.

Datum SCHENECTADIÆ vicesimo et seseto
die mensis July ANNOQUE
DOMINI millesimo octingentesimo et vicesimo.

Eliphalet Holt Pres.

Andreas Yates A. M. Dial. Prof.

W. Gilbert Phil. & Math. Prof.

N. Prouty Lat. & Græc. Ling. Prof.

mittees on Charitable and Religious Societies, Public Printing and Privileges and Elections — with undoubted ability, being particularly valuable in the committee room and in the practical details of legislation. He was invariably against all corrupt schemes and “jobs,” and his record will well bear inspection. His Democratic opponent in last fall’s canvass was JAMES W. MILLER, of Newburgh. A tremendous effort was made to elect him, but Mr. DENNISTON received a majority of 291 in a very light poll. His own town gave him a majority of about 70, while the Democratic candidate for senator and sheriff carried it by about 50 majority. By this it will appear that his career thus far has been eminently satisfactory to those who know him best.

Mr. DENNISTON is a gentleman of pleasant manners and incorruptible character, possessing in a large degree those qualities which are essential to the able legislator. He is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and, in all the public and private relations of life, is without reproach. He has never married, and, with the exceptions already noted, has always lived on the farm occupied by his father and grandfather. In the present House he is Chairman of the Committee on Two-thirds and Three-fifths Bills and member of Railroads and Charitable and Religious Societies.

ROBERT DICKSON.

We are not exaggerating when we say that Mr. DICKSON, who represents the Second district of Rensselaer county, is, in whatever way we regard him, a man of the highest character. His well developed head and strongly marked features are infallible indications, not only of great natural ability, but of noble impulses and a correct understanding of the relations of life. The son of a father whose life has

very thorough acquaintance with all the practical branches of knowledge. In 1860, when his father was elected Comptroller, he accompanied him to Albany as his confidential secretary, and diligently availed himself of the opportunity thus afforded of becoming familiar with the practical details of legislation. At the expiration of the two years term of service, Mr. DENNISTON was seized with the war fever, then widely prevalent among young men, and receiving the appointment of Quartermaster of the 124th Regiment, New York Volunteers, he went to the front with the gallant Col. ELLIS. He made an excellent Quartermaster, winning the good opinion of the entire regiment, but the severity of camp life was too much for him, and he was compelled to resign after about six months service, having contracted a disease by which he was prostrated nearly a twelve-month after his return. Mr. DENNISTON belongs to a patriotic family. Four brothers and a brother-in-law were in the army and navy during the great war. Since the death of his father, in 1867, Mr. DENNISTON has been occupied in administering and managing the large estate left to his care, as well as being trustee of several other estates, and as it includes one of the finest farms in Orange county, it furnishes him ample employment.

Almost from boyhood Mr. DENNISTON has been active in political life, it being his habit always to attend the primary conventions, rightly believing that to be a duty especially incumbent upon those who would secure good nominations. He has also frequently been sent as a delegate to various deliberative bodies. He was elected to his present seat in the fall of 1872, and is the first Assemblyman elected in many years from the country portion of his district, the member being generally taken from the city of Newburgh. His personal popularity is indicated by the fact that he then received a majority of nearly nine hundred over a very popular Liberal Republican opponent, ALEXANDER LESLIE, of Newburgh. He served in the last House — being a member of the Com-

in general is dictated rather by a regard for the welfare of the whole people than by any considerations of party advantage. He is a man above the average height, of agreeable presence and courteous manners. His complexion is somewhat dark and his features spare, but his face habitually wears a mild and thoughtful expression, and his general appearance is that of a studious and cultivated gentleman. He is a good speaker, and a clear, incisive reasoner, but he deals in facts, and the conclusions therefrom, rather than the meretricious graces of oratory. His speeches embrace the results of deep thought and mature conviction, and are, therefore, generally logical and sound. He is a valuable member, and his ability is acknowledged even by his opponents.

GEORGE B. DEANE, JR.

GEORGE BARTCH DEANE, JR., is a representative young New Yorker, and is at the threshold of what promises to be a brilliant career. He has never held office before, either elective or appointive, but he takes quite naturally to the duties of legislation, and his record will undoubtedly be an honorable one. He was born in New York city August 31, 1848, and is, therefore, in his twenty-sixth year. At the age of eighteen he was married to Miss JENNIE GLASSFORD, also of New York. His father was a native of Albany, and is still living, at the age of fifty-five.

The subject of our sketch was educated in the New York public schools, Seward Institute in Florida, Orange county, and Monticello Academy in Sullivan county. After graduating from the latter institution he studied law and was admitted to practice; but the labors of the profession were not congenial to him and he abandoned it. He is now engaged in the forwarding business with his father.

Since Mr. DEANE attained his majority he has been an

ROBERT DENNISTON

active working Republican, and there are, perhaps, few men of his age better known in New York political circles. For the last two years he has been a member of the Republican Central Committee, and last year he was chairman of the Young Men's Republican Central Committee. He was, in fact, elected to the Assembly as a representative young Republican. The canvass last fall in his district (the ninth) was more than ordinarily sharp, there being three candidates in the field besides himself, viz.: A. J. MATHEWSON, Tammany Hall, PATRICK HENION, Apollo Hall, and JAMES E. MCVEANEY, Liberal. His popularity was such, however, that he was elected by a plurality of 910, the Republican majority in the district last year being but 816. The result of the election was certainly very creditable to Mr. DEANE. He occupies a prominent place on the committees, being a member of Commerce and Navigation, Public Health and State Charitable Institutions. Though a member of no religious denomination, he attends the Baptist Church, of which his wife is a member.

AUGUSTUS DENNISTON.

Though quite a young man, Mr. DENNISTON has passed through quite an eventful career, and has already shown that he possesses the characteristics of the Scotch-Irish ancestry from which he sprang. He was born on the 25th of May, 1842, at Blooming Grove, Orange county, where he still resides. His father was the late Hon. ROBERT DENNISTON, who, in old Barnburner times, was distinguished for his integrity, force of character and ability during several years of service in both Houses of the Legislature, and one term as Comptroller of the State, being a member of the noted "State Military Board." Young DENNISTON was educated by private tutors at home, and enjoys, therefore, a

1820

From: Life Sketches of Government Officers and Members of the Legislature of the State of New York for 1874.

Son of James and Prudence (Morrison) Denniston, was born in the town of Blooming Grove, Orange county, New York, October 15, 1800, died there December 2, 1867. In his day he was one of the most prominent men in the county and state. He graduated from Union College at the head of his class and was a classmate of William H. Seward. He then taught school for a time and then settled on his farm in New Windsor township. He was appointed justice of the peace of the town of New Windsor by Gov. Marcy, and was also judge of the court of common pleas for Orange county. He was elected a member of the state assembly in 1835-39-40, and in 1840 was elected a member of the senate of the state of New York for a term of seven years, and was appointed chairman of the committee on canals. He was also judge of the court of errors. In 1859 he was elected comptroller of the state of New York and served in that office for two years, and on the expiration of his term retired to his farm, where he lived until his death. In 1824 he built the house on this estate, in which all of his children were born and which is now occupied by his son. He was one of the organizers of the Highland National Bank of Newburgh, and was for many years a member of its board of directors.

He married (first) September 24, 1823, Julianna Howell who died February 21, 1825, and (second) June 16, 1831, Mary, daughter of William Scott, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, who died February 2, 1898.

Children, all by second marriage:

1. William Scott, b. 1832; d. July 22, 1862; graduated from Yale University in the class of 1850; served as a volunteer surgeon in the United States army during the civil war.
2. Julianna Howell, b. March 1, 1834; d. April 12, 1878; married June 1, 1861, Edward Stevens, of Buffalo, N. Y.; children: John, d. in Spokane, Wash., in 1890; Catherine Cushing, m. Frank B. Phillips, of Brooklyn, N. Y., child, Cushing Phillips.
3. James Otis, b. Dec. 4, 1835; was captain of Company C. 124th N. Y. Vols. in the civil war; now a Presbyterian clergyman, living in Washingtonville, Orange Co.; married, June 3, 1869, Margaret Crosby; child, Mary.
4. Robert, d. in Oakland, Calif., in Oct. 1864; served as paymaster's clerk in the United States navy.
5. Henry M., b. June 13, 1840; now living on the old home-
stead in Orange county; was educated by private
tutors at home and graduated from Yale University
in the class of 1862; was appointed paymaster in the
U. S. navy by President Lincoln, and was retired with
the rank of rear-admiral on reaching the age of limit,
June 16, 1902; married Jan. 21, 1869, Emma J. Dusenberry;
child, Robert, now a physician in Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.,
m. Sarita White; children: Robert, Mary, Henry Scott.

6. Augustus, b. May 25, 1842, and is now living in Washingtonville.
7. Mary Scott, m. Walter R. Marsh, of New York City; child, Antoinette, m. Willard C. Reid, child Edward M. Reid.
8. Caroline M., unmarried.
9. Jane Crawford, m. Robert Emmet Deyo, of New York City; children: Cornelia; Julianna, m. Rev. John Brownlee Voorhees, of Hartford, Conn; Margaret; Evelina.
10. Abbey L. unmarried.
11. Agnes, died 1868.

Gen. & Fam. Hist. of Southern N.Y. v. 2 p. 896.
Cuyler Reynolds, Ed.
New York 1914.

CLASS OF 1820

ROBERT DENNISTON

A gentleman farmer and Republican, of Sailsibry's Mills, became Comptroller January 1, 1860, having been elected at the November election on 1859 over Sanford E. Church. He had been Assemblyman from Orange county in 1845, and Senator from the second district in 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846 and 1847, and had been an unsuccessful candidate against Mr. Church for the office of Comptroller in November, 1857. He was thus Comptroller in the first year of the war, at the inauguration of high taxes and the large expenditures of that period. His administration was wise and conservative.

A Century in the Comptroller's Office p. 54
James A. Roberts
Albany 1897.

ROBERT DENNISTON, A.M., 1820, of Bloomingrove, N.Y., was a member of the Adelpic Society.
Adelpic Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1867)



Sumus



Unus

Die septimo ante Kal. Augusti
Anno Domini Milleesimo
octingentesimo et vicepsimo.

OMNIBUS HAS LITERAS

LECTURIS SIT NOTUM

ROBERTUM DENNISTON

virum moribus approbatum eruditionis eximia receptum fuisse
Socium SOCIETATIS ADELPHORUM in COLLEGIO CONCORDIÆ

SCHENECLADLÆ In cuius testimonium commune SOCIETATIS

sigillum huic membrana est affixum nominaque

PRÆSIDIS et SCRIBÆ sunt subscripta DATUM AULÆ

ADELPHORUM

Warren Isham

Charles Smith

Præsides
Scribae

CLASS OF 1820

ROBERT DENNISTON

He was born in the town of Blooming Grove in 1800, being the son of James Denniston, a native of the same place and a farmer by occupation, his death occurring in 1825. Great-grandfather James Denniston was born in Orange County, where he owned large tracts of land. The family is of Scotch-Irish extraction, and its progenitors in this country came here with the Clintons, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Denniston being brothers-in-law, and they settled in Little Britain, on adjoining homesteads.

During his day Hon. Robert Denniston was a very prominent man and possessed large influence in the county and State. Among the positions which he held were those of Justice of the Peace, County Judge, Member of Assembly, Member of the State Senate for several terms, and Comptroller of the State in 1860-61. After serving in the Assembly for three years, he was State Senator for seven years, and from 1840 to 1846 he was chairman of the Committee on Canals. In politics he was first a Democrat, but after the formation of the Republican party he joined its ranks. For years he was a Director in the Highland National Bank, in which he was one of the original stockholders. He served as elder in the Presbyterian Churches at Washingtonville and Bethlehem. In 1849 he was President of the Orange County Agricultural Society, and altogether he was one of the most influential men of his generation.

The marriage of Hon. Robert Denniston united with him Miss Mary Scott, who was born in Elizabethtown, N. J., and who is still living. Her father, William Scott, was born in Northumberland Co., England, and in 1798 removed to America and settled in Elizabethtown, N. J., of which he was a pioneer. He came with his father, Gavin Scott, they having left England on account of religious persecution. They were Presbyterians in their belief. Later in life William Scott came to Newburgh, and here he died in 1846.

There were eleven children in the family of Robert and Mary Denniston, of whom seven are living.

Henry M., has been in the U. S. Navy since 1861 as Paymaster.
James O., Presbyterian clergyman; 1st Lt., of Co. G., 124th New York Infantry.

William Scott, M. D., Surgeon in U. S. Army, died in Virginia in 1862.

Robert, Jr., died soon after honorable discharge from U.S. Navy.

Augustus., Quartermaster 124th N. Y. Infantry.

FROM Portrait and Biographical Record of Orange Co. p.310

ROBERT DENNISTON.

Son of James Denniston and his wife, Prudence Morrison, daughter of John Morrison and his wife, Elizabeth Scott of the town of Montgomery, was born in what is now the town of Blooming Grove, October 15, 1800.

He married first Julianna Howell, September 24, 1823, who died without issue February 21, 1825. His second wife was Mary Scott, only daughter of William Scott, of Northumberland, England, who settled near Elizabethtown, N. J., in 1795, and subsequently removed to Newburgh. By this marriage he had five sons and six daughters.

He served as an officer of militia and as justice of the peace of his native town; was appointed by Gov. Marcy judge of the court of common pleas of Orange County; was elected member of assembly in 1835 and again in 1839 and 1843, and in the fall of the latter year was elected senator in the Second district, in which position he remained seven years, during the whole of which time he was chairman of the committee on canals, then a very important committee; by virtue of his office he was also a member of the "court for trial of impeachments and the correction of errors."

In 1859 he was elected Comptroller of the State, and at the close of his term retired to his farm in Blooming Grove, where he resided until his death, December 2, 1867. His five sons were in the service of the United States during the Civil war. Robert, jr., was paymaster in the navy and subsequently attained the rank of Rear Admiral; he married Emma J. Dusenberry; they have one son, Robert.

History of the Town of New Windsor p. 110.
Edward M. Ruttenger
Newburgh, N. Y.
1911.

From: Biographical Sketches
of State Officers and Members
of the Legislature in 1861
Wm. D. Murphy
New York 1861

Mr. Debbiston is an old-time Democrat of the strictest sect, and was reared in the school of politics to which such men as Silas Wright, A. C. Flagg, and Michael Hoffman belonged. During the Old Hunker and Barnburners schism, he was closely attached to the latter branch of the party; and in the progress of events, by the natural bent of his political education, has become a Republican of the Jeffersonian stamp. He is a gentleman of conceded shrewdness and sagacity; an ardent and zealous politician; and persevering and indomitable in maintaining and defending his principles, and in pursuit of ~~of~~ his political projects. There is nothing brilliant or ostentatious in his manner, and his entire course through life has been simply that of a quiet, straightforward, honest, practical farmer and statesman.

Mr. Denniston was born on the 15th of October, 1800, in the town of Blooming Grove, Orange county, N. Y. His great-grandfather, Alexander Denniston, with his brother-in-law, Charles Elington, and his friend John Young, left the county of Longford, Ireland, where they were born, and in the latter part of May, 1729, embarked from Dublin for New York, landing at Cape Cod, in the month of October, after a perlious ~~xxxxxxx~~ passage of twenty-one weeks and three days. In the spring of 1731, the three pioneers settled in New Windsor, Orange county, N. Y., and from the top of a high hill in that town, named the country, as far as they see, Little Britain, which name the neighborhood still retains, while the high hill is known as the Clinton Burying-Ground. The mother of Mr. Denniston, who still survives, was the youngest of a large family by the name of Morrison, all of whom were born at Bellanyhinch, in the county of Down, Ireland, with the exception of herself. They also settled in Little Britain, where many of their descendants still reside. It will thus be perceived that the subject of this sketch is of pure Irish blood, of which he has frequently been known to boast.

Mr. Denniston commenced his education at the Blooming Grove Academy, on the first of January, 1815, under the Rev. Joshua Boyd, who now resides at Newburgh, and in July, 1820, graduated at Union College, Schenectady. Among his classmates were Laurens P. Hickok, present Vice-President of that institution; Tayler Lewis, one of the most accomplished Greek scholars in the United States; William Kent, whose distinguished legal talents have left an everlasting impress upon the jurisprudence of the country; William H. Seward, now representing New York in the United States Senate; John C. Wright, formerly State Comptroller; James G. Hopkins, Alfred E. Campbell, and several others who have held prominent public positions in the country.

After leaving college he settled on a farm within one mile and a half of his native place, which he subsequently inherited, and on which he has continued to reside. He soon became a military officer, a Justice of the Peace, and, by appointment of Gov. Marcy, a County Judge. In 1835 he was an active and prominent member of the Assembly, and successfully held the position in the years 1839 and '40. The next year he entered the Senate, as one of the Representatives from what was then the second ~~precinct~~ district, and began his labors in that capacity with such men as Alonzo C. Paige, Gulian C. Verplanck, Alva Hunt, and Erastus Root. The State was then divided into eight Senatorial districts, and each district was entitled to four Senators, who were chosen for four years. He was re-elected to the same position in the fall of 1844, and successfully occupied it until the last of January, 1848. The great question before the people of the State, during his entire term of service in that body, was that of the completion of the public works, and during most of the time he held the responsible post of Chairman of the Standing Committee on Canals. He has always been friendly to the completion of the canals, but, throughout his entire legislative career, acted upon the doctrine, that no work should be undertaken or recognized by the State that will not, when completed, sustain itself, pay the interest on its cost, and contribute something towards a sinking fund to redeem the principal. He made a report in the Senate on the 21st of March, 1844, which contained an extended review of the financial operations of the State, in regard to the public works, and which at once gave him a distinguished reputation as a man of superior ability, and a thorough knowledge of his subject.

After retiring from the Senate, Mr. Denniston remained quietly at home on his farm, until the fall of 1857, when he was nominated by the Republican State Convention at Syracuse, for the distinguished place he now occupies. Owing to some disaffection, however, in the ranks of his party, he was defeated. Nothing was again heard of him in the political arena until the fall of 1859, when he was again renominated as a candidate for the same office, by the Republicans in State Convention. He was subsequently, likewise, nominated for the same position by the American State Convention at Utica, and was elected by about forty-nine thousand majority. Thus far, he has discharged the duties of the office with efficiency and ability, and bids fair to leave a praiseworthy administration upon the records of the State.

Mr. Denniston was married, in 1824, to Julia Howell, who, at the end of one year and five months died, leaving him childless. He was again married, in 1832, to Miss Mary Scott, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, by whom he has reared eleven children, all now living. In religion he is a New School Presbyterian. He stands well in the social world, being kind and agreeable in his personal intercourse towards all with whom he comes in contact, and enjoys a great degree of personal, as well as political popularity wherever he is known.

Robert Denniston 1820
a73

Robert Denniston 1820
F. B.