

1824- Charles Goodyear

Born April 26 ,1804 Town of Cobleskill, N.Y.

1.

The following Sketch is taken from:

Days of My Years
The Autobiography of a
York State Farmer
By Jared Van Wagenen, Jr.

N.Y.State Hist. Assn.
Cooperstown, N.Y.
1962.

Beyond any other member of his family, he enjoyed special educational opportunities.He went first to Hartwick Seminary, one of the oldest educational institutions in America, and then to Union College at Schenectady, where he was graduated in the class of 1822 (?). Then, according to the custom of that day, he read law in the office of a prominent Schoharie attorney. Within a couple of years he was admitted to the bar, and began his practice at the county seat, and for the next forty years it seemed that everything he touched prospered beneath ~~of~~ his hand. He was twice ~~xxxxxx~~ a member of the New York State Legislature. He was for two terms a representative in Congress for his district. He was a judge of Schoharie County. In 1852 he established the Schoharie County Bank, the only bank in the county at that period, and he was its president. In a stone house called "Sunnyside" just across the creek from Schoharie village he established a gracious and dignified home where he kept the traditions of a lord of the manor. I am sure that there was a day when almost no one would have questioned his title of first citizen of his native county.

Then in 1868 the whole structure of his life suddenly crashed in ruins. His bank failed completely and disastrously, and with it was lost the savings of many who had trusted him. His own private fortune also was swept away. I hope that his personal integrity was not compromised, but nonetheless for him there was only humiliation and execration.

It is true that in a way he made a sort of comeback. This was in the shameful Reconstruction era when Virginia was considered and treated as a conquered province; Somehow or other he received a Federal appointment as a judge of a Virginia district with headquarters at Charlottesville. I suppose he was called a carpet-bagger and a scalawag and that he experienced all the hatred and contempt to that particular class appertaining. His widow, who was a gently reared woman, survived him for quite a number of years. Apparently the family fortunes continued to decline, because I remember when in response to an appeal his nephews and perhaps a few others who remembered him united in a modest contribution to stave off her absolute destitution

Some years ago I was in Charlottesville and by a rather unusual/good fortune made contact with a man who remembered something about ~~him~~ my great -uncle Charles. He pointed out the house where he once lived. It was a big, rather pretentious pre-Civil War home, perhaps properly to be called a mansion. Occupancy of so fine a residence was possible, ~~not~~ because he South was so utterly bankrupt, the North could have anything he wished and do as he pleased. I also learned where he was buried and stood by his grave. There was only a plain marble slab with little beside his name. At ~~xxxx~~ last at least, there was no pretense of importance. I suppose that only now and then in the world is it possible to find a life whose morning and midday so sunlit, but whose evening drew to such a somber close. pp. 30-32

1824,

Rec^d Mar 29 1853To *Chas. Goodyear* of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1824

(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 Quinnepeck, 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 (?).
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.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOREGOING SKETCHES

1. Name.

Charles Goodyear

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

II. Names of both Parents ; thus :—

[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

Jared & Beede Goodyear

III. Birth Place.

Cobbleskill Schoharie County

Birth Day and Year.

April 26, 1805

IV. Various residences and dates ; thus :—

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

Cobbleskill, until 1824 & Ever since at Schoharie Village —

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

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

Hartwick Seminary, Fort Evert Nazelles, 1822

VI. At what College he graduated, and when.

Union College in 1824

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.]

Commenced study of law immediately on leaving college —

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

[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.]

Law in 1824 with Henry Hamilton Esq of Schoharie

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.]

At the Village of Schoharie

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.]

*Member of Assembly, 1839-40, Just Judge of Schoharie
county 1842, Member of Congress, 1846-7*

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

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

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

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.]

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.

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.]

1824

CHARLES GOODYEAR.

Hon. Charles Goodyear, President of the Schoharie County Bank, has been authorized by the Comptroller of the Currency to organize a National Bank at the village of Schoharie. All persons wishing stock in said Bank will have an opportunity to subscribe for the same at the Schoharie County Bank at any time on or before the 10th day of April next.

From: Schoharie Republican
March 16, 1865

Judge Goodyear's Speech: Judge Goodyear, Representative from this district, addressed the House on Saturday last, 10th inst., in support of President Johnson's restoration policy as against that of the Revolutionary Congress. The Judge contended that the negroes joined the army because of the inducements thrown out--bounties, etc. The Representatives objected to this statement. Mr. Grinnell, of Iowa, took exception to the statement, and instanced the fact that in the State of Iowa more than 300 black men had joined the army on the first opportunity they had without any promise of bounty. The same was the fact in the whole northwest. He wished the gentleman to place that in his speech as a jewel to set it off.

Mr. Goodyear:-Then we are informed that out of a population of 400,000 men living in a free State, 300 blacks were induced to join the army by the same inducements that were offered to white men. I am willing they should have the benefit of that statement.

We have merely seen the telegraphic synopsis of the speech and consequently cannot give a more detailed report to-day.

FROM: Schoharie Republican
March 15, 1866.

1824 CHARLES GOODYEAR.

Charles Goodyear, esq. of this village has been appointed first judge of this county in the place of the Hon. John C. Wright, (1820). resigned.-

During the time that Judge Wright has discharged the duties of first judge he has by his prompt decision, courteous demeanor and impartiality gained the good opinion of the gentleman of the bar and all who had occasion to transact business in our courts.

The appointment of Mr. Goodyear, who is one of our best lawyers, meets the approbation of all, and we trust he will fill the station with as much honor to himself and the court as his predecessor.-

(Schoharie Republican).-

Daily Albany Argus, Feb. 18, 1843.

CLASS OF 1824

CHARLES GOODYEAR

Born April 26, 1804, in the town of Cobleskill, Schoharie County, N. Y. At the age of 14 he was sent to the then celebrated Hartwick Seminary in Otsego Co., to prepare for college. So diligently did he pursue his studies, that he was able at the age of 18 to enter the junior class in Union College, Schenectady, then and for many years under the management of the celebrated Dr. E. Knott, who at that time was perhaps the best known instructor of youth in the United States. In 1822 Charles Goodyear was graduated with the highest honors of his class, and shortly thereafter entered as a law student the office of Henry Hamilton, Esq., at Schoharie. In 1826 Mr. Hamilton took him in as partner, which partnership continued until the death of Mr. Hamilton in 1846. At this time, and for several terms, Mr. Goodyear was a member of Congress from his district, which included Schoharie, Schenectady and Otsego counties. He was also twice elected to the State Legislature, and was judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1852 he established the Schoharie County Bank, of which he was president. In 1872 he sold out his interests in New York and removed with his family to Charlottesville, Va., He was there judge of Albemarle County Court.

He was married June 17, 1835 to Charlotte Seitz Gebhard, born March 4, 1815, only daughter of John Gebhard, a prominent and wealthy lawyer of Schoharie, N. Y.

Charles Goodyear died April 9, 1876; his wife died Thanksgiving Day, 1887; both are buried at Charlottesville, Va.

Children:

1. Charles A. born March 17, 1836 in Schoharie. Married July 10, 1858, Eirene Warriner King, born March 8, 1840, in Athens, Greece, youngest daughter of Rev. Jonas King, who was for more than 50 years American Consul at Athens, and representative of the American Board of Foreign Missions. Mrs. Goodyear died in Denver, Colo., April 26, 1891. Mr. Goodyear resides in Parker, Colo.

(a) Mary born April 16, 1859; married Oct. 11, 1880, Charles Agnew McNeale, son of John McNeale. He died July 16, 1890. Child:
1. Philip Agnew, born 1886; 2. Donald Agnew, born 1889; 3. Charles.

(b) Charles, born March 20, 1861; died Nov. 20, 1862.

(c) Charles King, born January 13, 1865; married Stella McDaniell.

2. George B. born February 4, 1838 at Schoharie; married February, 1864, Elizabeth; daughter of Dr. James H. Briscoe. of Philadelphia, born September 19, 1843; died April 11, 1884. George Goodyear removed to and now resides at Charlottesville, Va.

- (a) Lottie born May 3, 1865
- (b) George born September 3, 1871
- (c) John V. born June 16, 1883.

3. Mary born August 31, 1843; died January 23, 1852.

FROM Genealogy of the Goodyear Family p. 101
Grace Goodyear Kirkman
Cubery & Company
San Francisco 1899.

*Congressional Biog.
Serial 4. 1023.*

✓ **GOODYEAR, Charles**, a Representative from New York; born in Cobleskill, Schoharie County, N. Y., April 26, 1804; attended the Hartwick Academy in Otsego County; was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1824; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1826, and commenced practice in Schoharie, N. Y.; appointed first judge of Schoharie County in February, 1838, and served until July, 1847; member of the State assembly in 1840; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-ninth Congress (March 4, 1845-March 3, 1847); continued the practice of law in Schoharie until 1852, when he established the Schoharie County Bank and served as its president; elected to the Thirty-ninth Congress (March 4, 1865-March 3, 1867); was not a candidate for renomination in 1866; resumed the practice of law; delegate to the Union National Convention of Conservatives at Philadelphia in 1866 and to the Democratic National Convention at New York City in 1868; retired in 1869 and moved to Charlottesville, Va.; served as judge of the Albemarle County court; died in Charlottesville, Va., April 9, 1876; interment in Maplewood Cemetery.

1829

I herewith send extract as to Charles Goodyear from pages 367-368 of Roscoe's "History of Schoharie County". The enclosed account or sketch says that in 1848 Gen. Young appointed Charles Goodyear Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. I think an examination of the New York Civil list published back around the year 1879 will show that Charles Goodyear was appointed the Judge on Feb. 9, 1843 instead of 1848 besides, Roscoe on page 102 of his History states that Charles Goodyear was appointed Judge of what we now know as County Court and then known as Court of Common Pleas, on Feb. 9, 1843. This date of Feb. 9, 1843 is given where Roscoe on page 102 gives the list of Judges and the dates of their appointment.

"~~He~~ General William Mann was the next who established an office here, and was soon followed by Jacob Houck, Jr., from Catskill

(1827).

probably 1847 was elected as the first judge

"That same year Charles Goodyear, of Lawyersville, after graduating at Union College and staying with Henry Hamilton, was admitted to the practice, and opened an office in that of Hamilton. Being a careful, earnest worker, he soon established a reputation that equalled any of his predecessors in his profession, and was called upon by the people to represent them in the Assembly in 1840, and in Congress in 1845 and 1847--also in 1855, 1867. In 1848 Gov Young appointed him Judge of the Court of Common pleas. Upon the organization of the Schoharie Bank in 1852, Mr. Goodyear was elected President, which position he held to within a short time previous to his removal to the South in 1868. Mr. Goodyear was ~~elected-President~~ unfortunate in a financial point of view, during the insane speculations that followed the Civil war, and to sustain that honor which years of fair and honest dealing had obtained, his ample fortune was sacrificed, and he removed to Charlottesville, Va. There his legal qualifications were again appreciated, and he was placed in the Judicial chair, and tendered other positions which he felt compelled to refuse. On the 9th of April 1876, he died at his Southern home, in the seventy-second year of his age."