CLASS OF 1818

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LANGDON

Was the son of Hon. Chauncey Langdon, one of the conspicuous members of the legal profession in Rutland Co., Vt. He was born in Castleton October 12, 1798; graduated at Union College in 1818 and from the Law School in Litchfield, Conn., in 1820; was admitted to the Rutland County bar in 1821 and practiced until his death, May 31, 1862. In 1837 he was appointed register of probate for the district of Fairhaven, holding the office until 1845. In 1852 he was elected one of the County Court judges, and retained the office until 1855. As a lawyer he was well-read and a safe and judicious counselor.

FROM History of Rutland County
H. E. Smith & W. S. Rann
D. Mason & Co.,
Syracuse 1886

CLASS OF 1818

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LANGDON

Entered from Castleton, Vt.
In college, 1814-1816.
A.B. Union, 1818.
Lawyer, Castleton, Vt.
A. M. 1822;
Died, 1862.

Middlebury College--General Catalogue--p.50 1917.
To B. F. Langdon
of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1818
(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 minuteness.

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:—Obituaries; 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 Quinnipæck, 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 Hoesen, Esq. In 1829 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1822–5; 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, 1788; 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 Hanover, 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. 28, 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 Poteau, of Camerille; 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. If 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.
I. Name.

Benjamin Franklin Langdon.

II. Name of both Parents; that is:

[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

III. Birth Place.

Castleton, VT.

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:

[Putnefield, Mass., 1794-20; Albany, N.Y., 1798-40; New York City, 1800-24.]

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

[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L.L.D., 1799-37.]

VI. At what College he graduated, and when.

Union College 1818.

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving College, before entering his profession; thus:

[Teaching, Washington, D.C., 1817-19, or Merchants' Clerk, New York City, 1820-23.]

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

Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-30, or Law in Albany, N.Y., with Hon. Hazard Tracy, 1829-30.

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


X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:

[Merchant, Rochester, N.Y., 1830-31; or Farmer, Genesee, N.Y., 1831-34; or Manufacturer, Schenectady, N.Y., 1841-46; or Professor, London, England, 1847-49.]

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

[Delegate at Jefferson Co., N.Y., 1846-47 and 1847-48; Member of Congress, 1851-54; Member of Assembly, N.Y., 1851-54, &c., &c.]

A Member of the Constitutional Convention 1842.

Judge of Court of Common Pleas from 1852 until his death.

XII. The literary or scientific works he has written or edited; thus:

[Copies are solicited for the "Graduate Alumni" 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, 1823; or LL.D., Amherst College, 1830, &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.

[Hand any printed notice, biographical sketch, family memoir, &c. In many instances more space will be required to express this and the three following questions, in which case call for additional sheets.]
BENJAMIN F. LANGDON:

Eldest son of Chauncy and Lucy Langdon, was born in Castleton, Oct. 12, 1798.
Graduated at Union College in 1818, and at the Law School in Litchfield, Conn., in 1820. He was admitted to the bar of Rutland County in 1821, and practised the profession of law until his death. In 1837 he was appointed register of probate for the district of Fairhaven, which he held until 1845. In 1843 he was elected to represent his native town in the Constitutional Convention called to meet that year. In 1852, he was elected one of the judges of the county court, which office he retained until 1855. He was a director of the Bank of Rutland from January, 1849, until his death. As a lawyer he was well read and a safe counsellor, and in the full sense of the term, a gentleman. For the institutions of learning in Castleton he manifested great interest, and was a liberal supporter of the Seminary and Medical College, of which he was a trustee. Mr. Langdon died May 31, 1862, aged 64 years. He had a family of ten children, seven of whom survived childhood.

Vermont Historical Gazetteer
Vol. 3 p. 524
Abby Maria Hemenway.

He was elected a trustee of the Castleton Medical College in 1828. vol. 3 p. 521.