

✓ **HARD, Gideon**, a Representative from New York; born in Arlington, Bennington County, Vt., April 29, 1797; was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1822; taught school; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1825, and commenced practice in Newport (now Albion), N. Y., in 1826; elected as a Whig to the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Congresses (March 4, 1833-March 3, 1837); commissioner of schools for Barre Township, Orleans County, N. Y., 1841-1848; served in the State senate 1841-1848; canal appraiser in 1849 and 1850; resumed the practice of law until 1850; county judge and surrogate for Orleans County 1856-1860; retired to private life; died in Albion, Orleans County, N. Y., April 27, 1885; interment in Mount Albion Cemetery.

*Congressional Biographical
Directory p. 1058.*

GIDEON HARD, 1822, of Arlington, N.Y.² was a member of the Philomathean Society.
(Died: 1885)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

GIDEON HARD, '22,

was born April 29th, 1797, in Arlington, Vt. In College he was a Philomathean and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at graduation. He became a lawyer and resided at Albion, N. Y., from 1825 to 1885. About 1827 he was School Commissioner and County Treasurer. He was a member of Congress from 1833 to 1837; member of the State Senate from 1842 to 1848; Canal Appraiser from 1848 to 1851; County Judge and Surrogate of Orleans County from 1856 to 1860. He was a man of great integrity and industry. In his frequent candidacies before the people he was never defeated. His political sentiments were Republican, his churchmembership was Methodist. He died at Albion, February 17th 1885, of old age, leaving a widow, a daughter and a son,

CLASS OF 1822

GIDEON HARD

Was born in Arlington, Vt., April 29, 1797. His grandmother was sister of Col. Seth Warner, celebrated in the history of the Revolutionary war for his services in taking Ticonderoga, and in the battle of Bennington. In his youth he labored first upon a farm, afterwards with an older brother at the trade of house joiner for two years.

About this time he resolved to obtain an college education. being poor and dependent mainly on his own exertions, like many other New England boys, he taught school in the winter seasons and studied the remainder of the time, until he succeeded in passing through Union College at Schenectady, where he received his first degree in July, 1822. In the autumn of that year he commenced studying law with Hon. John I. Wendell, then of Cambridge, Washington Co., since law reporter of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

The rules of the Supreme Court at that time required three years of law study previous to admission to practice. By the aid of his friend and teacher John I. Wendell, he was allowed to take his examination at the May term of the Court 1825, and was then admitted attorney in the Supreme Court.

In March, 1826, he settled to practice his profession in Newport, now Albion, but did not move his wife to their new home until July of the same year.

He opened his office and began his practice.

In 1827 he was elected Commissioner of Schools for Barre and in the autumn of that year he was appointed County Treasurer, an office he held six years. In 1832 he was elected a Representative in Congress from the district comprising Orleans and Niagara counties, and took his seat in Congress in December, 1833, during the first year of President Jackson's administration, in political classification being ranked as a Whig. In 1834 he was re-elected to Congress, and during the long session of 1836 he served on the committee on elections. The case of James Graham, a member from North Carolina, whose seat was contested, came before that committee, where after a lengthy examination a majority of the committee reported in favor of the contestant, General Newland.

Mr. Hard drafted a counter report of the minority in favor of Graham, which he presented and advocated in a personal effort before the House. He was sustained by the vote of the House. This result, in a body where he was largely in the minority, on a question which was decided mainly on party grounds and by his political opponents, was highly gratifying to his ambition.

On March 4th, 1837, he left Congress and returned to Albion to practice his profession.

In 1841 he was elected Senator in the State Senate to represent the 8th District of New York, and was the only Whig Senator elected in the State that year. The Senate of the State at that time constituted the court for the correction of errors, of which court he thus became a member.

CLASS OF 1822--Gideon Hard--2

The business of the Court consisted in reviewing the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Court of Chancery, which might be brought before them on appeal. The Court held three terms of four weeks each annually.

As the Senate was composed largely of civilians, who in the decision of cases which came before them while sitting as a court of law, did little more than vote upon the final questions, the main labor of the court fell upon the members who were lawyers, in investigating the questions of law presented, and writing out the opinions that were given.

Mr. Hard took his share of this labor, thoroughly examining the causes in the Court and writing out his opinions in support of the conclusions to which he arrived, many of which are published in the Law Reports of the State.

Mr. Hard married Adeline Burrell, of Hoosic Falls, N. Y., in August, 1824.

They had two children:

1. Samuel B., a lawyer and businessman, residing in the City of New York.
2. Helen B., who married George H. Potts, and resides in New York also.

Mrs. Hard died at Albion, September 15, 1864.

Pioneer History of Orleans County, N. Y. pp. 92-95
Arad Thomas (Union 1830)
Albion, N. Y.
1871

1. A full page portrait accompanies this sketch.
2. There is also a biographical sketch of Mr. Hard in "Landmarks of Orleans County p. 114, by Isaac S. Signor, Editor, published by D. Mason & Co., Syracuse in 1894.