



Union College

Class of 1927

60TH REUNION

JUNE 1987

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CLASS OF 1809

DAVID OLIPHANT

David Oliphant was ordained over Ch. & Cong. at Keene, N. H.
on May 24, 1815.

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 365

UCSLA1809 oliphant_d.003

DAVID OLLIPHANT, '09

b. Waterford, N. Y., Nov. 9, 1791; U. C., 1809; And. Sem.; (1--); ord.....,
May 25, '15; s. s. Cong. ch., Keene, N. H., '15-17; p. 3d (Dane St.) ch.
Beverly, Mass., '18-34; p. 2d ch. Wells, Me., '34-38; s. s. West Haverhill,
Mass., and Plaistow, N. H., '38-52; Andover, Mass; St. Louis, Mo.; d. St.
Louis, Mo., Oct. 26, 1871.

1813-14

From: Princeton Theological Seminary Catalogue

Was born in Waterford, N. Y., in 1791; graduated at Union College, 1809, and Andover Theological Seminary in 1813; came to Keene as a candidate in November, 1814; ordained May 24, 1815; married in September, 1815, Mary, daughter of Dr. Abiel Pearson, of Andover, Mass.; dismissed from Keene in the autumn of 1817. It was said that one cause of his unpopularity and dismissal was that he took strong ground against the prevailing intemperance. His ministry here was "somewhat less than three years, and yet he made a great and lasting impression upon the people." Ninety-one were added to the church, and he baptised 129 persons.

After leaving Keene he was soon settled over the Third Church in Beverley, Mass., where he was a successful minister for sixteen years. He was then dismissed, and soon settled again in Wells, Maine.

He died in 1872.

Many of the old church records are in his clear, elegant handwriting.

History of the Town of Keene, N. H.

p. 63

G. G. Griffin
Sentinel Printing Co.,
Keene, N. H.
1904.

CLASS OF 1809

DAVID OLIPHANT

Born Waterford, N. Y., November 9, 1791
Union College 1809
Princeton Theological Seminary 1811-12
Andover Theological Seminary 1813
Ordained May 25, 1815
Pastor Keene, N. H., 1815-17; Third (now Dane Street)
church, Beverly, Mass., 1818-34; Second church, Wells,
Maine, 1834-38; Plaistow, N. H., 1838-52
Without charge Andover, Mass., 1852-68 (resident
Licentiate 1853)
St. Louis, Mo., from 1868
Died October 26, 1871.

General Catalogue 1808-1908 p. 39
Andover Theological Seminary

Rev. DAVID OLIPHANT, A.M., 1809, a resident of Ballston, N.Y., was a member of the
Philomathean Society. He died in 1871.
Philomathean Catalogue 1830.

CLASS OF 1809

DAVID OLIPHANT

About the time of the Annual Thanksgiving," Rev. David Oliphant came to preach as a candidate for the position of pastor. He was a graduate of Union College and of the theological seminary at Andover. In February both the church and the town voted to give Mr. Oliphant a call, at a salary of \$700, with a yearly vacation of "three or four Sabbaths;" and he was ordained on the 24th of May, 1815, although a large number of the society remonstrated against his settlement. The Revs. Messrs. Dickinson of Walpole, Hall of New Ipswich, Pratt of Westmoreland, Ainsworth of Jaffrey, Bruge of West Brattleboro and Edwards of Andover, Mass., assisted at the ordination. p. 369

The independence of thought on religious matters which resulted later in Unitarianism was beginning to develop. The services of Rev. Mr. Oliphant not being wholly satisfactory, the town took action looking to his dismissal and chose a committee to "wait on" him and request him to join in calling a council for that purpose. Mr. Oliphant declined to receive the committee or hold any communication with them except in writing. A controversy ensued in which the church sustained its pastor, and during which several long reports of contending committees were received and recorded in full. Finally Mr. Oliphant acceded to the request of the town and on Dec. 1st, he was dismissed by a council called mutually for that purpose. p. 372.

Mr. Oliphant was chairman of the first meeting of the Cheshire County Bible Society. p. 379.

History of the Town of Keene
S. G. Griffin
Sentinel Publishing Co.
Keene, N. H.
1904.

CLASS OF 1809

DAVID OLIPHANT

After the dismissal of Mr. White, Rev. David Oliphant was invited to take charge of the society (First Congregational Church of Wells, Me.).

He had been some years in the ministry and was a very popular man. To secure his services the parish offered him four hundred dollars and the use of the parsonage. But the position did not meet with his acceptance. Yet he took advantage of the opportunity presented by the invitation of preaching to the people an effective discourse. In his answer he states that his health is feeble, the climate of the seacoast unfavorable to his constitution, and the labor a large scattered parish too hard for him; and also that the offer of a salary was unreasonable, and he regretted "that a people so long distinguished for their ardent desires to have the Gospels preached to them, should at this time, when they need its sacred instructions more than ever before, set up so strong a barrier against the enjoyment of its blessings as the refusal of a proper support of it." It is somewhat questionable whether this reply was in good taste, and prudent as became a servant of Christ. Mr. Oliphant had been living in a larger and richer community, and his notions of the appropriate salary for a minister were the offspring of the associations which he there enjoyed. But in all these border towns the people were limited in their means, and business paralyzed by the exigencies of the war, and no one could feel that it was a time for the increase of salaries.

History of Wells and Kennebunk p. 619
Edward E. Bourne
B. Thurston & Co.
1875.

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He died in 1872. Many pages of the old church records are in his clear, elegant handwriting.

History of the Town of Keene pp. 631-2
S. G. Griffin
Sentinel Publishing Co.,
Keene, N. H.
1904.

Mr. Oliphant served this church from May 24, 1815 to
December 1, 1817. p. 727

Mrs. Oliphant was the fourth child of Dr. Abiel Pearson of Andover, a physician, who graduated from Dartmouth, 1779, and Mary Adams.

New England Historical & Genealogical Register p. 91
Vol. 10 1856.