To A. Stafford

of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1812

(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 Quiniquepeck, 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 1839 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 1816.

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. 1804. He taught, 1803-20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1822; 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 Haslet, 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 “Commissaire’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. Hannah Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Sometown, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Potecor, of Cambridge; attended medical lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Raine, 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 answer to the following questions be as full and authentic as possible; but when difficult 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 we have but one fact, let that be sent.

3. Let us think of the times as may be found necessary for this purpose, and as 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 case 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.
INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING SKETCHES.

I. Name:  
[Let this be written plainly and the middle name is full]

II. Names of both Parents; thus:  
[John and Elizabeth Smith Johnson]

III. Birth Place:  
Deerfield, New Ash, N.Y. Birth Day and Year. 27 Jan. 1792

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:  
Deerfield, 1724, 1792-95; Albany, 1795-1825  
[Princeton, N.J., 1796-98; New York City, 1800-01]

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:  
[Academy, Residence, Info., E. D. 1802-03]

VI. At what College he graduated, and when.  

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:  
[Teaching, Washington, D.C., 1802-05; or Mendon's Field, New York City, 1802-05]

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:  
[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1806-08; or Law in Albany, N.Y. with Hon. Harman, 1808-10]

IX. Where he has practiced his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, receive the denomination to which he belongs; thus:  
[Essex, Newtonville, N.J., 1807-20; Fox, Albany, N.Y., 1820-25]

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:  
[Merchant, Rochester, N.Y., 1820-25; or Porter, Oswego, N.Y., 1823-24; or Manufacturers, Schoharie, N.Y., 1834-45; or Professor, Amherst, Ohio, 1845-50]

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:  
[Superintendent of Jefferson Co., N.Y., 1833-34; and 1835-37; Member of Congress, 1st District, N.Y., 1846-47; Member of Assembly, 2nd District, N.Y., 1851-54]

XII. The literary or scientific works he has written or edited; thus:  
[Copies are selected for the "Graduates 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, 1832; or L.L.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; thus:  
[In 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 more detail is solicited above]

Mar. 15, 1838. Albany, N.Y., of consumption.
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:

Another firm dealing in the same kind of ware (hardware), that of Spencer Stafford & Co., succeeded to that of Enos Brown. The Stafford family had long carried on this business in Albany. They were backers of Stafford & Brown, and when the latter failed they assumed the place. Their head, Spencer Stafford, had three sons engaged with him, Spencer, Jr., Hallenbake and Joab. Of these the two former now moved (1820) to Utica, Joab following a few years latter. And these, with varying partners, conducted the house for many years, nearly on the site of the store of Hopson and Shepard, and afterwards a few doors above the square on the east side of Genesee. (Hallenbake made a short stay in Utica).

FROM The Pioneers of Utica p. 509
M. M. Bagg
Curtiss & Childs
Utica 1877
HALLENBAKE STAFFORD

0 of Albany, born 1793; died 1835.
Married 1824 Maria, daughter of James Gibbons of Albany.
Captain in War of 1812.
Son of Spencer of Albany, born 1772; died 1844
Married 1st, 1790 Dorothea, a descendent of Caspar
Jacobse Helenbeek, the mother of Hallenbake; 2nd, Harriet
Romeyn), alderman of Albany, 1817; assessor of Albany city;
Son of Joab, born 1729; died 1801; married 1751, Susannah
Spencer; colonel in the Revolutionary War; deputy general
court of Coventry, Rhode Island, commissioner of land patents;
Son of Thomas of Warwick, Rhode Island, born 1882; died
1765; married 1st 1707 Anne, daughter of Job Greene; 2nd
1719 Audrey, daughter of Richard Greene, the mother of Joab;
deputy to general court;
Son of Samuel of Warwick, Rhode Island, born 1835, at
Plymouth; died 1718, at Warwick; married Mercy, daughter of
Stukely Westcott; deputy to the general court; assistant
or senator for Warwick;
Son of Thomas Stafford, born about 1605; married Elizabeth
-----; who came from Warwickshire, England, to Plymouth, Mass.,
about 1626, and settled at Newport, Rhode Island, thence to
Providence, thence to Warwick, Rhode Island, in 1652, where
he died, 1677. He brought with him the arms of the Stafford
family of Warwickshire, engraved on wood and paper mounted on
a panel about a foot square, from which it is assumed that
he was descended from the family of Robert, a younger son of
Roger de Toney, standard bearer of William of Normandy, and
who was appointed by the Conqueror governor of Stafford
castle, and from whom are descended the Dukes of Buckingham.
See Munsell's Collections Vol. III, p 440.

American Ancestry
The City of Albany
Vol. 1 p. 74
Thomas P. Hughes
Joel Munsell's Sons
Albany
1887.

James Gibbons Stafford of Albany, a son of Hallenbake,
moved Fannie Masters, daughter of Tibbets Briggs. He had
a son, William Tibbets Stafford, who lived in Albany in 1887.
May 2, 1930.

Hallenbake Stafford could not have served as a Captain in the War of 1812, for the reason that, since the receipt of your letter, I find in the Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment, of the State of New York, 1783-1821, a work I helped to compile and edit (You will find my name on the title page) he was not commissioned lieutenant in the New York Militia, from the record his first commission therein, until March 2, 1914, in the 89th Regiment, Infantry, Albany County. See page 1506, 1439 for date. And Captain same Regiment March 22, 1816. See page 1722, 1847 for date.

He may have served as a lieutenant, but his name not being on the list you have from Washington would indicate, in the absence of positive proof, that he was not in U. S. Service in the War of 1812, as I have written you the only test of actual service in that war.

If my memory serves me aright there is something about him in Munsell's Annals of Albany, which you might look up. He was generally known, if my recollection is correct, as Captain Stafford. And I find from the Minutes that he was commissioned February 22, 1822 Captain of a newly organized troop of Cavalry, Albany County, New York Militia. See page 2535, date on same page.

HENRY HARMON NOBLE
DIED: In this city, on Saturday night, Hallenbake Stafford.

Albany Argus
March 16, 1835
(Monday)
Stafford, Hallenbeck
From: Albany, N.Y.
Last residence: Albany, N.Y.

Records show one
Hallenbake, Stafford
Lieut., Capt. Jacob Best’s Co.
(Roger’s Regiment New York Militia)

Service commenced Sept. 5, 1814
" expired Dec. 5, 1814
Not found as Hallenbeck
MARRIED: By the Rev. Mr. Lacey, on Monday last, Hallenbake Stafford, Esq., merchant of Utica, to Miss Maria, daughter of James Gibbons, Esq., of this city.

Albany Argus
Sept. 3, 1824
Friday.