CLASS OF 1819

J. MUNSON OLMSHEAD

At the last commencement of Washington College, Pa., the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on the Rev. J. Munson Olmstead, of this city.

The Philadelphia Inquirer    Nov. 28, 1856

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book    p. 395
JAMES MUNSON OLMSTEAD

Was born at Stillwater, New York, February 17, 1794. Entered Union College, 1816; graduated, 1819; in Princeton Theological Seminary, 1819-22; licensed by Presbytery of Troy, 1822; served as an itinerant missionary in New York and Pennsylvania, and in the Winter of 1824 in Virginia, to improve his health; June, 1825, was ordained and installed over the Presbyterian Churches of Landisburg and Centre, Pa.; in 1834 accepted a call to Middle Tuscarora Church, Pa.; April 19, 1837 to November 1, 1849 pastor of Presbyterian Church, Flemington, N. J., resigning because his health was not adequate to the work of the charge. Then he removed to Snow Hill, Md., where he preached several years. In 1854 removed to Philadelphia, where he remained in comparative retirement, although taking an active interest in all the movements of the church.

Died Sabbath, October 16, 1870, aged seventy-six. Mr. Olmstead was a man of decision and independence. He expressed his views boldly. As a preacher, he was able, instructive, and often pungent, and a devout man. Besides his sermons and essays, he was the author of several religious books which received very favorable commendations.

FROM Encyclopaedia of the Presbyterian Church

Alfred Nevin Editor.


Rev. JAMES M. OLMSTEAD; 1819, of Troy, N.Y., was a member of the Philomatean Society. (Died: 1870)

Philomatean Catalogue 1830
Born in Stillwater, N. Y., February 17, 1794.
Graduated from Union College, 1819, and from Princeton
Theological Seminary, 1822.
Pastor of Presbyterian churches, Landisburg and Centre, Pa., 1825-32; Middle Tuscarora, 1834-37; Flemington, 1837-49.
In 1854 he moved to Philadelphia, where he died October 16, 1870.

Publications:

"Thoughts and Counsels for the Impenitent" 1846.
A popular work which reached the third edition.

"Our First Mother"
Written in the form of letters from a pious and
intelligent mother to her daughters and nieces.

"Noah and His Times" 1854
Which was received with very great commendation.

"The Voice of God"
A sermon preached at Flemington on occasion of
national fast, Friday, May 14, 1841.

His works give evidence of study and ability. His style
was direct, and often pungent.

History of Hunterdon & Somerset Counties, N. J.
p. 242.
James P. Snell
Everts & Everts
Philadelphia 1881.
James Munson Olmsted was born in Stillwater, Saratoga County, New York, February 17, 1794. His parents were Lemuel and Sylvania (Reed) Olmsted, who were natives of Fairfield County, Connecticut. His ancestors on the father's side were from Essex County, England; on the mother, from Glasgow, Scotland. Lemuel Olmsted and wife, soon after their marriage, about the year 1785, moved to Saratoga Co., N.Y., then largely but a wilderness, where the father of the subject of this notice became a farmer, and followed the occupation through life. He died May 28, 1805, leaving a widow and six children, of whom James Munson was the eldest.

Munson prepared for college at Milton Academy, in his native county, under the tuition successively of Paynes, Royce, and Samson— the latter, Judge Samson, of Rochester, N.Y. He graduated at Union College, July 1819, and in the fall of that year entered the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N.J. He was licensed to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of Troy in 1822, and acted as a missionary and stated supply until the beginning of the year 1825, when he accepted a call to a Presbyterian church within the bounds of the Presbytery of Carlisle, Pa., and was ordained and installed in June of that year. In February 1837, he accepted a call to...
him by the Presbyterian Church of Flemington, New Jersey, where he lived and laboured for nearly thirteen years. Since that time until the present (1855), in consequence of a severe bronchial affection, he has been unable to employ the pulpit as formerly. For the last year and a half, from the same cause, he has been entirely unable to address his fellow-men from the sacred desks; but being desirous to be useful, he has not been entirely neglectful in the use of the pen.

Besides articles written for various periodicals, he has, through the press, given to the public three books viz., Thoughts and Counsels for the Inquiring published by the Carter & Brothers; Our First Elders from the press of C. Ivison, N.Y., and Noah & His Times,” issued by the firm of Gould & Lincoln, Boston. Several sermons delivered on particular occasions he has also issued, at different periods of his active ministry, to give through the press to the public.

He has been three times married. His first wife was Ann C. Mahon, daughter of David Mahon, Shippenburg, Penna., who departed this life, May 1833. His second wife was Matilda C. Gunderson of Lancaster, Penn.5; and his third whom he married in 1837, was Ann, daughter of Charles Woodward, of Philadelphia. The latter (1855) is still living.

Since the fall of 1853 Mr. C. had resided in Philadelphia.

This pastoral charge, both in Pennsylvania and New Jersey were much blessed by the Great Head of the Church, whilst he was a minister in them. Several hundred were hopefully converted through his instrumentality. The late Rev. D. Miller, of Berne, in a communication which he wrote to the public, spoke of him as “a clergyman who has been remarkably blessed in his labours.”

(By F. H. Olmstead)