

1816

PETER J. WAGNER:

Married: At Schenectady, on Wed. evening,
30th ult. by the Rev. Dr. Van Vechten,
Hon. Peter T. Wagner, of Fort Plain, Mont-
gomery Co. to Miss Margaret, only daughter
of Abraham Oothout, esq. of the former. -
Albany Argus, Feb. 18, 1839.

CLASS OF 1816

PETER J. WAGNER

Was born in Palatine in 1795, and was the son of Joseph W., who settled in Minden in 1805.

He became one of the leading lawyers of the county and represented this district in Congress in the session of 1839-1841.

He died at Fort Plain at an advanced age.

FROM History of Montgomery County p. 154
Washington Frothingham
D. Mason & Co. Syracuse 1892.

CLASS OF 1816

PETER J. WAGNER

Of Fort Plain, is a grandson of Col. Wagner. He was born near Fort Wagner in August, 1795. In 1839 and 1840, he was a representative in Congress from this district.

FROM History of Montgomery & Fulton Counties, N. Y. p. 151
F. W. Beers & Co.
1878.

1816.
✓ WAGNER, Peter Joseph, a Representative from New York; born at Fort Plain, N. Y., August 14, 1795; completed preparatory studies; studied law, was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice at Fort Plain, Montgomery County, N. Y., in 1830; member of the State assembly 1839-1841; elected as a Whig to the Twenty-sixth Congress (March 4, 1839-March 3, 1841); resumed the practice of law at Fort Plain; died at Fort Plain, Montgomery County, N. Y., September 13, 1884; interment in Fort Plain Cemetery. *p. 1655*
Congressional Biographical Directory

PETER J. WAGNER

The following references are taken from "The Story of Old Fort Plain and the Middle Mohawk Valley" by Nelson Greene, published at Fort Plain, N. Y., 1915.

"Peter J. Wagner was the first lawyer and he also represented old Montgomery county in Congress." p. 157

"One of these was the marriage of Peter J. Wagner aforementioned to Margaret Oothout in 1823," referring to social occasions held in the store erected by the Dievendorf brothers. p. 156

"Of the nineteen good volunteer toasts recorded, (at the celebration held at Fort Plain in 1825, Oct. 26., on the opening of the Erie Canal)"I think every mover but one has gone to his rest--the exception is the Hon. Peter J. Wagner, now (1882) past 87; and here is his sentiment: 'Liberty of the Press--The armed neutrality of a powerful Republic. Here no Harrington is denounced as a bloodstained ruffian--no Galileo doomed to languish and pine within the cells of an accursed Inquisition.'" Mr. Wagner had more to do with the preparing of the toasts than any other man." p. 207

"The Hon. Peter J. Wagner, a grandson on the mother's side of John Abeel, well remembers a visit of Cornplanter to his relatives at Fort Plain. He places the visit in the fall of about 1810. The noted chieftan then came here, in his native dress of feather and plume, on his way to Albany, attended by several other Indian chiefs. The party was first entertained at the house of Joseph Wagner, the father of informant, whose wife was a half-sister of the distinguished chief, who received at her hands that kind and courteous attention which his reputation justly entitled him to expect." etc. p. 158

Union College
Schenectady, New York

President Pickens Neagle
Vice-President George F. Allison
Treasurer Edgar S. Barney
Stuyvesant and Ninth Sts., N. Y. City
Secretary and G. C. Representative
W. N. P. Dailey New York City

Class of 1884
Secretary's Office

PETER J. WAGNER of the Class of 1816 of Union College

Peter J. Wagner was the son of Johan Joseph Wagner(b1759-d1848). His mother was Catharine Abeel, daughter of John Abeel(father of Chief Cornplanter by an Indian wife).

PeterJ.Wagner's grandfather was Lt.Col.Johan Peter Wagner(b1722-d 1813).He was one of the Committee of Safety of Tryon County(Org. Aug.26,1775) and he took part in the Battle of Oriskany, being in the second batallion of Palatine,N.Y. He also commanded Fort Paris, near Fort Plain, in 1777.

In an old copy of "Fleetwood's "Life of Christ",-on the blank pages Peter J.Wagner kept the records of his family in the cramped back-hand of his later years. Among these many notes are the following relating to his own life:-

Born 14 August 1795 in Wagner's Hollow,Palatine.

In April 1805 our family moved to Fort Plain.

In the Fall and Winter of 1810 & 1811 I went to Fairfield Academy and stayed until Caleb Alexander (Principal) left and broke up the school, in the fall of 1811.

In winter of 1812, went to Frey's Bush, under the tuition of Rev.Mr. Gros* and stayed until May, when he died.

May 1812 went to Florida,N.Y. to study Latin and Greek, with Dr.Banks.#

Sept.1813, on Dr.Banks certificate, entered the Sophomore Class of Union College at Schenectady.

I graduated July 1816.

There 1816. Studied law with Alfred Conklin, Esq.(at Canajoharie)**

Stayed with him until May 1818,& then entered the office of Samuel A. Talcot at New Hartford,N.Y. Atty.General in 1821 or 1822

August 1819 sustained examinations at atty & received diploma as such.

In Sept. 1819 commenced practice in Fort Plain .

In 1820 took Nathaniel Conkling as Partner (Brother of Judge Conkling)-

who in Sept. 1819 married Eliza Webster & died about December 1821

Continued in the Law until 1832 when I took in partner P.G.Webster,my student and nephew.

1823, October 29 married Lydia D.Oothout

1834 was candidate for Congress against Matthew J.B-- ---.He beat me.

1837,Oct.20, my wife, Lydia D.Oothout died.

1838, was again a candidate for Congress against Judge D.T.S-----and beat him by 49 votes.

1839, Jany. 29the married Margaret O.Oothout of Schenectady.

1839 Nov. went to Washington for the December session.

1840 again to Washington for short session, with wife and child.

1841 March again resumed the Law and continued until 1848, when I discontinued for a more active than sedentary life.(so productive of Dispepsia that horrible----- disease)

1858 again resumed the Law.

1871 Wife died on December 17th.#Margaret Oothout, a cousin of the former.

#Gros John D.(1737-1812)S.T.D.-Pr of Columbia 1784-1795)-Regent U.N.Y. Chaplain in Rev. Refd. Date of L. Minister
#Rev. John Banks, D.D. Hon. Union 1808 #** Alfred Conklin, Union 1810(1847) ucslaf1816wagner - P_0004

1873, in May, being 77 and nine months of age, finding my physical and mental vigor somewhat failing, I again discontinued the Profession, definitely, for more relaxation, and more----- and vigor; but to what extent a merciful God knows. He is my refuge and hope.

John Peter Wagner died in 1884 at Fort Plain, N.Y.

1816

Recd. May 27 1855

To Peter Wagner of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1816
(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 Quinipeck, 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 1830 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 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; 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 Haselton, 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. 23, 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 Phisic and Dr. Abram Potecar, of Camerville; 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. 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 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.

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOREGOING SKETCHES.

I. Name. *Peter J. Wagner*

[Let this be written plainly and the middle names in full.]

II. Names of both Parents; thus:—
[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]
Joseph & Catharine (Abel) Wagner

III. Birth Place. *Palatine, Montgo. Co. N. Y.* — *14th. August 1796*
Birth Day and Year.

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:—
[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-18; Albany, N. Y., 1801-30; New-York City, 1830-34.]

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:—
N. Y. Academy, Eastman-street, N. Y., 1815-17; Rev. G. B. Chapman, Principals, 1811 & 12; Fairfield Academy

VI. At what College he graduated, and when. *Union College 1816.*

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—
[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1817-18, or Merchant's Clerk, New-York City, 1819-21.]

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:—
Law with Gov. Livingston, Esq. 1816 to 1818
[Judge, Schoharie, N. Y., 1817-20; Pres., Albany, N. Y., 1830-31; New-York City, 1832-34.]
in Georgetown, N. Y. — Savil. A. Talcott Esq. 1819, in New-Haven
N. Y.

IX. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:—
in Fort Plain, N. Y. since 1819.

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—
[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Greece, N. Y., 1825-54; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.]
Farming, Milling &c. since 1849.

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

[Sergeant of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1829-31 and 1843-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1831-4, &c., &c.]

Member of Congress 18th. District N. Y. 1839-41.

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.
[Copies are solicited for the "Graduates Above" in College Library.]

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.
Rev. Geo. A. Lintner, D. D. of Schoharie C. H.

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whom, with dates; thus:—
[M. D., from Albany Medical College 1843; or LL. 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.
[Send any printed notices, biographical sketch, funeral sermons, &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions, in which case add an additional sheet.]

XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

Member of Congress 1811-1812

Rev. Geo. A. Easton, D.D. of S.C.

XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family ; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

*Paternal ancestor emigrated to America from the City of Hamburg
(Europe) in 1715*

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 :—

[John Orton Smith, Banker, Chicopee, Mass., died 1848. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]

*Daniel Holt Esqr. (my classmate) who practised Law in Chazy
Valley N. Y. from 1819 to 1835, removed from there in '35 to
Fort Plain. & has ever since practised Law in this Village
- fitted for College at Chazy Valley Academy, entered Union
College in '34 & graduated in '36 - born in '95*

CLASS OF 1816

PETER J. WAGNER

The first established lawyer (in Fort Plain) was Peter J. Wagner, a gentleman of ability, who once represented old Montgomery County in Congress (1839-1841).

FROM History of Montgomery & Fulton Counties, N. Y. p.
F. W. Beers & Co.
New York 1878.

PETER J. WAGGNER, 1816, was a resident of Minden, N. Y., was a member of the
Philomathean Society.

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

C. N. W. - Have you this data
on alumni of Union College?

Peter J. Wagner - Union 1816
Born August 14, 1795

Married:

- (a) Lydia Oathout of Fort Plain
(b) Margaret Oathout - Schudy. a
cousin of first wife -

Studied & Practiced Law
on Graduation.

In 1837 elected to Congress
He lived to be over 90 years.

Mrs. M. J. Neahr, Chicago,
a Daughter, Lasher father's
Graduation Diploma.

(over)

W.M.P.

I came across these items
in a Pitt Plain "Standard"
(11.24.32) - but I have a
"Lunch" that some years
ago, after correspond-
ence with Mrs. Neahr I
sent college work data
on Peter J. Wagner,
W.P.S.

CLASS OF 1816.

PETER J. WAGNER.

Peter J. Wagner, who died at Fort Plain, N. Y., on Saturday, was born on August 14, 1795, at Palatine, Montgomery County, N. Y., and was the great grandson of Colonel John Peter Wagner, who settled in the Mohawk Valley during the year 1723, and served with distinction in the Revolutionary War. His grandfather, who also held a Colonel's commission in the war of the Revolution, was one of the Committee of Safety for Tryon County and represented his district in the State Legislature from 1777 to 1781. Peter J. Wagner removed at the age of ten years with his parents to Fort Plain. He entered Union College in 1813 and was graduated in 1816. He studied law with Judge Alfred Conkling, of Canajoharie, N. Y., and Samuel A. Talcott, of Oneida County, then Attorney-General of the State. He was admitted to the Bar in 1821. In 1838 he was elected to Congress. He served during the administration of Martin Van Buren and was the contemporary, friend and correspondent of Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun and William H. Seward. His political predilections also brought him frequently into intimate relations with the late Horace Greeley, who was his welcome guest when travelling through western New-York. Mr. Wagner having declined a re-nomination for Congress retired to his home, where he engaged in the practice of his profession. He was prominent in the organization of the first church at Fort Plain, of which he was a member and an active supporter, and was ever foremost in the promotion of educational interests. Mr. Wagner was twice married--first to Miss Lydia, daughter of Jonas Oothout, of Montgomery County, N. Y., and second time to Miss Margabet, daughter of Abraham Oothout, of Schenectady. Three children survive him.

New York Tribune
September 15, 1884 (Monday)

HON. PETER J. WAGNER of Fort Plain. He was born in the town of Palatine, N. Y., August 14, 1795. At the time mentioned above, he was a student of Union College. (When Commodore Perry visited Schenectady after the battle of Lake Erie.)

From: Frontiersmen of New York
J. R. Simms
Vol. I p. 425

Peter Joseph Wagner 1816
AB

Peter Joseph Wagner 1816
P.B.