Watson, Charles

War 1812

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THE A.S. ABELL COMPANY, PUBLISHERS BALTIMORE, MD.

May 12, 1932

Mr. J. R. Brown, Jr., 27 West Erie Street, Albany, New York.

Dear Mr. Brown:

A letter just received from Mrs. Sally McDermott of Hartford, a grand-daughter of Charles Marston Watson, verifies your surmise that her grandfather went to Union College. The precise date she was unable to supply but your discovery of him in the class of 1812 could hardly mark a mere coincidence. I am constrained to believe that two generations ago my family must have been extremely precocious, for a century later I would not have enjoyed scrambling through Union College at the age of thirteen.

I still am helpless in the matter of tracing George Watson's connection with the College.

Sincerely yours,

Mark O Water

Mark S. Watson, Editor of The Sunday Sun.



THE A.S. ABELL COMPANY, PUBLISHERS BALTIMORE, MD.

April 29, 1932

Mr. J. R. Brown, 27 West Erie Street, Albany, New York.

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am afraid I can be of very little help in the matter of those members of the class of 1811—save in rescuing you from further work on Charles Marston Watson. He was my grandfather's brother and was born in 1799 (the tombstone at Fort Kent gives 1800 as his birth-date but my grandfather identified that as an odd error.)

This would have made him only twelve years old in 1811 and while we know that colleges of that day graduated boys at fifteen I know of no children so precocious that they could absorb Dr. Nott's fund of knowledge at twelve. Charles Marston Watson went to West Point; I am sorry I cannot give you the precise year but that after all is not involved in your inquiry.

Unfortunately I cannot help you either positively or negatively in the matter of George Watson. He was not the son of my great-grandmother and although letters which I saw in my youth (I think one from Lafayette among others) sent messages to Elkanah's son George there developed in my grandfather's family a reluctance to talk about him. Hence I cannot even give you the date of his birth or any authenticated information about his life. If he was of the right age to be in the class of 1811 he might well be the one about whom you make inquiry, for there was a rather close association between Elkanah Watson and Dr. Nott while my great-grandfather was a resident of Albany. The episode of the dueling pistol recounted by my grandfather tells how close that acquaintance came to being a most unfortunate one!

I wish I knew to whom I could refer your inquiry with some possibility of fruitful results.

Sincerely yours,

Mark D. Watson

Mark S. Watson.

Charles marston Watson