

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF A  
MEETING  
OF THE  
BENCH AND BAR  
OF THE  
CITY OF NEW YORK,

Held April 24th, 1879,

IN MEMORY OF

HON. HAMILTON W. ROBINSON,

Who died April 7th, 1879, during his Term of Office as a  
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, for the  
City and County of New York.

IN MEMORIAM.

HAMILTON W. ROBINSON

*Died April 7th, 1879, during his term of office.*

A meeting of the members of the Bench and Bar of New York was held on Thursday, April 24, 1879, at the Court House in the city of New York, to express their sentiments upon the decease of the late Hamilton W. Robinson, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

The following officers were elected:—

*President, HON. CHARLES P. DALY.*

*Vice-Presidents:*

HON. NOAH DAVIS,  
HON. JOHN R. BRADY,  
HON. CHARLES DONOHUE  
HON. GEO. C. BARRETT,  
HON. A. R. LAWRENCE,  
HON. WILLIAM E. CURTIS,  
HON. GILBERT M. SPEIR,  
HON. H. C. VAN VORST,  
HON. CHAS. F. SANFORD,  
HON. JOHN SEDGWICK,

HON. J. J. FRIEDMAN,  
HON. SAMUEL BLATCHFORD,  
HON. WILLIAM G. CHOATE,  
HON. CHARLES O'CONOR,  
HON. DAVID DUDLEY FIELD,  
HON. JOHN K. PORTER,  
HON. WILLIAM A. BEACH,  
HON. LUCIEN BIRDSEYE,  
HON. STEPHEN D. LAW.

*Secretaries:*

JOHN M. SCRIBNER, JR., Esq.,  
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, Esq.,

JAMES J. THOMSON, Esq.,  
JAMES T. LAW, Esq.

MR. A. J. VANDERPOEL said:—

We have met to pay respect to the memory of the late Hamilton W. Robinson. While this tribute is due to his

character as a lawyer and as a judge, it is also a tribute and token of our respect and affection for him as a man.

For nine years he had been a member of the Bench of the Court of Common Pleas of the city and county of New York. Thirty years of hard labor and varied practice at the Bar had thoroughly fitted him for this position, from which an all-wise Providence has removed him in the prime of life and season of usefulness. He was justly noted for the patient study and careful preparation of his cases, and every question likely to arise was fully investigated and brought to the test of his well-balanced mind. In his bearing he was diffident and unobtrusive;—in his friendships, cordial and sincere. As a judge he always remembered “that a judge must never allow himself to be warped or trammelled, and must ever maintain the free employment of a watchful and unbiassed mind.”

Mr. VANDERPOEL then offered the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That by the death of Judge Hamilton W. Robinson we have lost one who was an honor to the judiciary and to our profession. His urbanity of manner while at the Bar and on the Bench, his sincerity of heart and faithfulness to duty had endeared him to us; while his learning, probity and justice commanded for him universal respect. We cherish pleasant recollections of his well-spent life, and revere his memory as an able and upright judge.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be presented to the court of which Judge Robinson was a member, with the request that they be entered upon its minutes.

Mr. LUTHER R. MARSH said:—

Mr. PRESIDENT:—In rising to second the resolutions presented by Mr. Vanderpoel, which so truly deplore our loss, a few additional words may not be out of place.

So rapid are the changes in our Bar; such a tide of new practitioners is constantly poured into it from all sections of the nation, that there are many here, no doubt, who have

only known him,—whose loss has called us together,—in his office as a judge.

There are some present,—among them his class-mates Judge Speir and Samuel Campbell,—whose memories hold the slender form of a beaming and studious youth at college; ambitious of honor, free from any evil habits, and on terms of cheerful amity with all his co-collegiates.

Some, too, here, remember him, when afterwards graduated from college, and from a counsellor's office, he had taken rank as a lawyer at Albany, in association with Van Buren and MacKown;—Albany, where there were centred many men famous in the records of the Bar.

Some, too, remember him when, seeking a wider field, he encountered the hazards of a removal to this city,—where only courage, effort and pertinacity could secure a foothold,—and by his modest sign announced that he would give his time and labor to those who should intrust their interests to his hands.

He returned, temporarily, to Albany, to officiate as deputy attorney-general under Mr. Van Buren; and, subsequently, they united in partnership, and so for many years continued in New York, where a clientage, large in volume and responsible in character and amount, grew up around them; numbering in its list George Law, and the great and varied interests he controlled.

The services of almost every lawyer are, at one time or another, called into use as a mutually selected arbiter; and for this Judge Robinson developed such a special adaptation that he became, and was for several years, our most active and prominent referee—thus becoming especially educated to the duties of the office he was subsequently to fill. The proportion of causes disposed of by referees is very large; and they are often of the most troublesome and complex kind, involving many-ited accounts, which a jury cannot try. The referee unites in himself the functions of juror and

judge; and, but for him, I do not see how the courts could keep abreast of the accumulated business of the time. Of these referees, as I have said, Judge Robinson was, in his day, the most conspicuous; and such quantities of references flocked to his office, either by mutual consent or the compulsory orders of the courts, that he might often be seen presiding at the trial of two, three, and even four causes at the same time—walking through his ample rooms to the various tables, and disposing of questions of pleading and evidence as he passed.

Judge Robinson, when he came to the Bench, had well withstood the strain of his professional labors. He was, I believe, in perfect health. It is a question of some moment whether, if he had remained at the Bar, he would not now have been living and in full capacity. So many of our judiciary have become impaired in health, that it suggests a very serious inquiry as to the cause. Comes the trouble from the over-breathed air of crowded rooms, or from the perpetual and unrelieved stress of judicial duties—peculiarly responsible and exhausting—or from the joint effect of both?

And yet it would not seem to be safe to deduce any general principle from a limited range of facts; for on that very Bench in which this sad vacancy occurs, there presides a jurist who has administered at its shrine for more than a generation; who has carried on, besides, immense concurrent labors; who has gathered and recorded the annals of that historic court; who has been ever ready to take part in all public meetings and aid in all public enterprises; who, by his wise devotion to geographic science, has made his name familiar and respected over the world, and yet, who still bears the evidence of health undiminished and vigor unimpaired.

It was a pernicious habit,—induced by his sensitively nervous organization and the anxieties of his office,—which used to drive our departed friend, at midnight, from his bed

to his table, when many of his opinions were written and revised. He must possess a large original stock of vitality whose constitution can long sustain the drafts upon it required by the intense and varied application of the day time in our city practice, and carry protracted labor into the night besides. An habitual encroachment on the domain and jurisdiction of

“Tired Nature’s sweet restorer—balmy sleep,”

is, sooner or later, sure to be avenged.

He was a faithful and concentrate worker. But notwithstanding the remarkable facility with which he wrote, he used to revise and re-revise till his manuscript opinions almost required a Champollion to decipher them. I have been reminded, sometimes, while puzzling over his manuscripts, of a paper I saw when a student at Utica. There was, in the office of the late Charles A. Mann, a chest of historical documents, left by Richard Varick. Amongst them, a draft petition to Congress, by Baron Steuben, for some additional aid, as I remember it. It was in the handwriting of Alexander Hamilton—whose pellucid style vindicates his renown as a writer—from whom, by the way, our late friend derived a portion of his name—and its erasures and interlineations evinced that it was not struck off at white heat, and at a blow; that it did not drop without labor from the nibs of the pen; but had received many a careful revision and correction.

It was, however, in his social relations—in the company of his family and friends—that Robinson was king. His supremacy there was affectionately acknowledged. It is believed that he never lost a friend: rather, he bound them to him with enduring cords. Some of his boyhood and college class-mates have kept up with him, through the vicissitudes of life, the most intimate relations; and we need only witness the afflicting sorrow they express, to know how supremely he reigned in the domain of the affections.

His great pleasure was to spend the summers on his ancestral acres at Worcester, in the county of Otsego,—where he dispensed a charming and bountiful hospitality. He dreamed in his illness that the crisp air of the Otsego hills—resinous with the delicious odor of the woods—would renew his strength, like the eagle's; and that could he but touch his mother earth, he would, Antæus-like, receive new vigor in his frame. But he had approached too near the confine for any natural means to bring him back. And so, his mission here ended, he has gone to join the generations on the other side of the line; where our friends, in large majority, already are;—the ultimate destination and home of all.

Mr. LUCIEN BIRDSEYE said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN:—My long acquaintance with Judge Robinson, the kindness with which he welcomed me to the ranks of the profession, and the earnest regard which was the fruit of my long intercourse with him, render it a privilege to me, painful indeed but real, to join in these tributes to his memory.

When I commenced practice in Albany, Mr. Robinson had been some years at the bar. Although, while there, he had been but the junior member of his firm—that of MacKown, Van Buren & Robinson—he had already made his mark as a lawyer. Mr. MacKown was recorder of Albany. Presiding as he did at the monthly sessions of his court, and feeling the burdens of his great age and increasing infirmity, he had substantially withdrawn from active participation in the business of the firm. The tastes and aptitudes of Mr. Van Buren led him to engage in the contests of the bar and of the political arena, rather than in the severe studies and what to so many seem the dry labors of the law office; while these were precisely adapted to the tastes, and called forth all the powers of Mr. Robinson. Thus the business of the firm

had passed at an early day largely into the hands of Mr. Robinson.

He, however, left that firm, and came to New York to engage in practice. I think his residence here at that period was too brief to do much more than prove his sagacity in selecting the field of his life's labors, and the real strength of character which underlaid all his modesty and self-distrust. For, without both sagacity and force of will, he would not then have ventured into such a field.

When Mr. Van Buren was chosen attorney-general he induced Mr. Robinson to return to Albany to act as his chief assistant in that office, while he himself became still more completely the popular advocate and orator.

Taking up also the business of his former firm, the preparation of pleadings, opinions and briefs fully occupied his time, and led him far and wide in legal studies and examinations. At this period of his life, and indeed for many years afterwards, he was but rarely seen, and still more rarely heard, in the courts.

The bar of Albany was then a very strong one. Among those most frequently seen and heard in the courts, and who were famous throughout the State and beyond it, were, besides Mr. Van Buren himself, such men as Samuel Stevens, Marcus T. Reynolds, Daniel Cady, Teunis Van Vechten, Nicholas Hill, Rufus W. Peckham, Azor Taber, Julius Rhoades, Deodatus Wright, Henry G. Wheaton, Samuel H. Hammond and others.

But besides these men, famous as advocates and orators, there was then in Albany, as there must be at every bar, a class of men marked by characteristics very different.

Of retiring dispositions, distrusting themselves in the active contests before courts and juries, hardly becoming accustomed or willing to hear their own voices, but yet knowing well their own powers of study and examination and logical statement, they gave themselves up to the labors of

the office and the library, rather than of the court room. They made the deep researches into legal principles; prepared the careful array of authorities; and made the thorough preparations for trials and arguments, which, after all, are the real ground for professional success.

Among the men of this class were Gideon Hawley, Cyrus Stevens, George W. Peckham, Peter Cagger, Stephen D. Van Schaick, our late lamented surrogate in this city, Mr. Robinson, and others. Some of these men, either by the native force of their character, or under the pressure of circumstances, as when the advocate of the firm had fallen, or been laid aside, overcame the modesty of their natures, and became useful and successful in the more active and public duties of the courts.

Eminent as the bar of Albany then was for the ability and eloquence of its leading advocates, it may well be doubted whether it was not equally strong in the learning, the industry, the acuteness, the skill and the vigilance of those who, according to the English classification of our profession, would have been known only as attorneys and solicitors.

Such men as Mr. Cagger, Mr. Van Schaick and Mr. Robinson, were *powers*, not only in their several offices, but in the courts, where they seldom appeared, and even in general business and public affairs. Each performed great labors and discharged with success great responsibilities. If, as has sometimes been the fact, the public, not knowing whose were the real labors that contributed so much to the triumphs of the bar, gave the fame and reputation to those whose voices had been heard there, rather than to those who had, in fact, but in private, done so much both to deserve and to command those successes, it was not strange. I am sure that none of the gentlemen I have named ever experienced a pang of disappointment, or felt any thing but the desire to accomplish, in their several spheres, all that was possible to protect and promote the rights and interests of their clients.

Soon after the close of Mr. Van Buren's term of office as attorney-general he and Mr. Robinson removed to this city. Here Mr. Robinson, though still disinclined to appear in the court room, became well, if not widely, known for his great learning, his quick perceptions, his instant grasp of the points of a case, his logic, his power of legal statement; in short, for all that marks the lawyer and the judge.

As a consequence, he was sought as a referee. It was not at all the patronage of judges, but the free choice of attorneys and parties, that made his offices to resemble rather a crowded court room than the chambers of a very modest, quiet and retiring member of the profession.

Scarcely had Mr. Van Buren retired from active practice when those engaged in the litigated business of this city seemed to discover, as by common consent, that here was a great lawyer and a great judge ready at their hand. The labors and studies of his early life had borne their fruit. And some years later, when this court was re-organized, this verdict of the profession was ratified by that of the people, and he was placed on the bench of this court.

In what manner he discharged the duties of his high office needs not to be told in this place or this presence. On his own part; with what assiduity and faithfulness; with what fullness of learning; with what wide research; with what quickness of perception; with what patience; with what gentleness of demeanor and kindness of heart; with what singleness of mind, and simple purpose to perform every day the duties of that day; and on the part of others, with what genuine, universal confidence in his uprightness, his purity, his unselfishness, his supreme love of right and truth and justice; I do not attempt to speak. For are not all these things recorded in all that he has done in this court, and engraven on the memory of us all?

Let me, rather, say a few words of his personal character,

as it impressed itself upon me during a friendship of many years.

It was my good fortune to become his friend at the very beginning of my own professional life; to have seen much of him while we dwelt in Albany; to have followed him thence to New York at an early day, and in no small part because of his advice; to have had my own chambers, for some years thereafter, almost in common with his own; and during that time, and always afterwards, to have regarded him with affection and esteem.

Few men were better adapted to inspire esteem or affection.

The same qualities of the mind and the heart which seemed to withhold him from the forum made him delightful as a companion. Genial, quick, ready, keenly appreciating wit and humor, as ready and as strong in conversation as in the use of the pen, sincere, simple in tastes and pleasures, of a memory quick, ready and correct, how could he be other than he was;—the charming companion, the friend, faithful, trusting and trusted, loving and beloved?

That trait which has to me seemed, perhaps, the most noteworthy in the character of our departed brother, was the quickness, the clearness, the directness of every operation of his mind and heart. What with others was a process, with him seemed oftentimes to be a result. What other minds sought by induction, and with pains and labor, he appeared often to reach as if at a glance. And this quickness and purity of his mental operations was joined with, if not in large part derived from, the quickness and purity of all the feelings of his heart. His sympathies were ready. He was himself last in his own thoughts. And so he was considerate of the rights and interests, the enjoyments and pleasures of all around him.

In reviewing the career now closed, so long, so full of honor, and of all useful service, public and private, one is, I

think, reminded of a somewhat similar career, long since passed into the history of our profession.

It is now a little more than a hundred years since an English lawyer was promoted to the court of the King's Bench, where he was long the associate and friend of Lord Mansfield, who desired him to be his own successor as chief justice. When Francis Buller was made judge in the highest common law court of England, it is said that the propriety of his appointment was questioned, because of his want of prominence and success as an advocate at the bar. But he adorned the bench of that court for nearly a quarter of a century. He proved to be, almost, as it were, by nature and instinct, a great jurist, a great *nisi prius* lawyer, a great judge. His book upon the practice at *nisi prius* was the first effort to state in a formal or scientific manner the principles of that part of the science of our profession. It has done much, especially in the writers whom he has led to treat of the same subject, to throw light upon what was in his day a very obscure, and must ever be a very important and difficult branch of practice.

Certainly it cannot be said that the elevation of Judge Robinson to the bench was any thing like the experiment which the appointment of Mr. Justice Buller was at first thought by some to be, but which resulted so happily. For, at the time of his nomination and election, Judge Robinson (almost unknown as he was in the more active walks of his profession) had really passed through a more careful professional and judicial training than was at all known to or appreciated by most of his brothers at the bar. His whole career upon the bench has shown how his great natural powers had been disciplined and supplemented, by long and deep study and large experience, to fit him for his eminence as a lawyer and a judge.

Still, it seems to me, that in the tone and character of their minds; in the amplitude and readiness of their lea n-

ing ; in their fitness for judicial labors ; in their fondness for and faithful ness in those duties ; and in the ease and clearness of their legal statements, these two great judges were very much alike.

Indeed, I think it may be said, that in respect of all those qualities which render a lawyer and a judge really useful and great, Judge Robinson was singularly well endowed.

Happy was he that in his life he secured so much of the respect and the love of all who came within the sphere of his influence ; and that, at his death, he is found to deserve so well the admiration of those who shall come after him.

HON. H. C. VAN VORST, justice of the Superior Court, said :—

The life and character of Hamilton W. Robinson, in whose memory the bar of New York is this day assembled, are interesting to contemplate and study.

There was a remarkable unity in the development of his life from its beginning to its close.

In college, although among if not the youngest of his class, his whole course was marked by a diligent and thoughtful attention to his studies and duties.

He properly, although then a mere youth, regarded this period of his life as truly formative, and as likely to give direction and character to his future career. Evil habits were avoided and good ones formed.

I have heard him in after years speak with much feeling of the preparatory training and discipline which he received from his father, whose heart seemed wrapped up in the life and future of his son.

He gratefully acknowledged the ever present and inspiring influence that father exercised on him.

He had marked out for himself a life of devotion to the profession of the law, in the principles of which he was always deeply interested. He always loved his profession, and in his life honored it.

His early training had prepared him for a useful and successful career. But this he knew could only be realized by constant study and earnest application.

He never suffered himself to be drawn aside from his duties, or to miss the mark upon which his eyes were always fixed, by any pursuits or interests which would hinder his onward progress.

As his tastes would have preferred, so he was led into a plane of professional business important in its character, and which gave full play to the excellent qualities of his mind. The interests of his litigations were generally large, and the legal questions involved serious.

While a junior to others, much of the effective preparation of cases fell upon him. He seemed to anticipate and guard himself and his case against all difficulties likely to arise, and was prepared to meet unusual exigencies. He enjoyed the confidence of his clients to a large degree. This confidence was always merited and respected, and to the end of his life he held the esteem of all with whom he had held professional relations.

He was fitted by education, training, and mental constitution to be a judge.

And in the course of years, he was called to a place upon the bench of this honorable court. But on the day he took his seat with his respected associates, he was in truth already an experienced and useful judge.

He had been disciplined into habits of careful thought and sound judgment.

He was already fitted thoroughly to analyze evidence, and reach the truth amid conflicting statements, and to apply the controlling legal principles. He had an inborn love of justice and equity. He was always considerate and impartial. He was not hasty in his conclusions, but accepted results only when his judgment and conscience were satisfied. He had a just regard for authority, which he had been educated



to respect, and in his decisions always remembered that it was the province of the judge to interpret and not to make the law.

When his judgments and decisions come to be considered, they will be found to be reasonable and just in their scope and substance, and clear and logical in statement. He was patient in the hearing of causes, kind, considerate and courteous in his demeanor to counsel engaged. The cause of justice and the rights of parties were always safe in his hands. And although his life, measured by years, was not long, yet through its work and fruit it was complete and beautifully rounded.

"That life is long which answers life's great end," and in this regard his work was thoroughly well done.

We may well deplore the loss of one so excellent as a man, so sincere and kind as a friend, and so upright and just as a judge.

Chief Justice CHARLES P. DALY then said:—

It is proper, gentlemen, that some expression should be given by this court, of which Judge Robinson was a member, on the loss it has sustained in his decease. It is very gratifying to us, his late colleagues, to hear the tribute paid to his memory in the remarks which have just been made, and to witness the even much more substantial tribute paid by this large assemblage of the profession. It was at my particular request that Judge Robinson consented to become a candidate for the judgeship of this court. We had reason to be particularly gratified, as he had previously declined a nomination for judge of the Court of Appeals, and at a period when his election to that position was deemed certain; an assurance which was confirmed by the very large majority accorded to those who were afterwards elected. I say we had reason to be particularly gratified as members of the court that he consented to become a candidate for election, and were much more so with the association that followed

upon his election. I have had some experience in judicial life; I have had some contact with judges, and a large contact with members of the bar; and I only pay a just tribute to my deceased colleague when I say that no one with whom I have ever come in contact in the discharge of intellectual duties fulfilled, in my judgment, all the requirements, so much as he did. Gentle in his nature, painstaking, accurate and conscientious, there was no amount of labor that he was not willing to bestow, no attention that he was not prepared to give. Where industry is stimulated by exceeding conscientiousness as it was in his case, it naturally followed that great confidence was felt in his conclusions, springing as they did from so pure a motive, and after so diligent and laborious an exercise of all the qualities which are requisite to secure a sound judgment upon any thing. It was not only in this respect that he was most valuable to us, but if I may be permitted to use what is not common upon public occasions, he was very dear to us for other qualities. I think there is an old Russian proverb that says "you never know any thing of a man until you have made a campaign with him;" and my experience is that you know comparatively little of a judge unless you are associated with him in the discharge of official duties. You then see more clearly the motives by which he is actuated. You see a great deal which the world can never see. You get an insight into his finer and better qualities which is not perceptible to those outside; and it is this knowledge which makes the loss of Judge Robinson to us a very great one. We can all unite in the statement that during the period he was in the Court the greatest harmony prevailed in our intercourse with him, which was never in any way affected. When there was difference of judgment on his part there was always that kindly bearing which it is easy to remember, but difficult to express; a uniformity and gentleness of character which was exceedingly attractive in official intercourse. He always met us with a pleasant smile,

and such a thing as an unkindly word never passed his lips; nor so far as the human countenance is an index did he ever appear to harbor an unkindly thought. We are especially grateful to the gentlemen who have taken the trouble upon this occasion to call particular attention to the special merits of our deceased colleague—Mr. Marsh, Judge Birdseye and Judge Van Vorst. They have dwelt upon the intellectual and moral qualities by which he was distinguished so fully that it is unnecessary for me to say any thing more. I can only say, gentlemen, in conclusion, that we feel his loss much more deeply than it is in our power to express, for those things are felt most which are beyond expression. We are exceedingly grateful for the tribute which has been paid to his memory, and none know better than we do how justly it has been bestowed.

The question was then put upon the adoption of the resolutions that had been offered by Mr. Vanderpoel and the resolutions were adopted.

Upon motion of Mr. Charles Tracey the secretary of the meeting was directed to transmit a copy of the resolutions to the family of Judge Robinson, and also to furnish copies to the public press for publication.

The meeting then adjourned.

1832

Aug 1855

To H. W. Robinson of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1832

(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.

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

Samuel W. Robinson

II. Names of both Parents; thus:—

[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

James W. Robinson. Lucy Robinson

III. Birth Place.

City of Hudson

Birth Day and Year.

November 25. 1814

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:—

[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New-York City, 1830-54]

Hudson for about a Year. Worcester Ct. Co. N.Y. till February 1820  
November 1839. Albany City till

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:—

[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1815-17.]

Albany Academy — 1826 to '30  
J. R. Beck. (Peter Bullens, Joseph Henry, Intendant)

VI. At what College he graduated, and when.

Union — July 1832.  
Entered full term 1830.

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—

[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1847-48, or Merchant's Clerk, New-York City, 1849-51.]

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:—

[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.]

Law, in Albany with Hon James M. Kears 1832 to 1836  
admitted to practice November 1836

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

[Epis., Somerville, N. J., 1827-30; Pres., Albany, N. Y., 1830-5; New-York City, 1835-54.]

Albany from 1836 to November 1839  
New York from Nov. 1839 to Jan. 1. 1846  
Albany from Jan. 1846 to Jan. 1 1848  
New York from Jan. 1848

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—

[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Geneseo, N. Y., 1835-54; or Manufacturer, Schoharie, N. Y., 1841-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.]

S. W. Robinson

U.A.M. 1832 June 1930

Emma W. Wilson has sent the college a fine portrait of the late JUDGE HAMILTON W. ROBINSON, taken by Brady, and in excellent condition. Among the other items she sent were three textbooks used by Judge Robinson as an undergraduate. That on botany still contains specimens he collected and pressed.

THIS CLIPPING FROM THE

OCT 13 1877

Journal  
Albany N.Y.

Hamilton W. Robinson, recently referred to in the Journal, attended the Albany academy and was graduated at Union college in 1832. He began the practice of law in Albany with John Van Buren, known as "Prince John." He later removed to New York city and in 1872 became judge of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held until his death in 1879. He was held in the highest esteem for his superior legal attainments and ability and for his courtly personal qualities. His portrait and a bronze tablet to his memory adorn the walls of the New York city court house. He married Emma Whitney of a prominent Albany family, who was a graduate of the Albany Female academy. Her father, Selleck Whitney, was engaged in river commerce and owned the sloop Lafayette, and had property on Darius street. Judge Robinson's father, James W. Robinson, conducted a store on the corner of South Pearl and State streets in the thirties.

#### HAMILTON W. ROBINSON

was born at Hudson, N. Y., Nov. 25, 1804. He was prepared at the Albany Academy, was graduated at Union in 1832 and began the practice of law at Albany. He was Deputy Attorney-general of New York during Van Buren's presidency. He removed to New York city in 1848 and in 1870 was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of New York. He attained eminence as counsel in important affairs and was remarkable for his strong sense of duty and his learning. On the bench, he was prompt in his decisions and courteous. He received the Degree of LL.D. He died in New York, April 7th, 1879.

HAMILTON W. ROBINSON, 1832, of Albany, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.  
Philomathean Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1879)

CLASS OF 1832

HAMILTON WASHINGTON ROBINSON.

A lawyer.

Son of James Wilson and Lucy (Jolls) Robinson of Worcester, New York, formerly of Albany.

He was born at Hudson, N. Y., Nov. 25, 1814.

Graduated at Union College in 1832, and received the honorary degree LL.B. from same college in Schenectady in July, 1874.

He married Emma Whitney, born at Albany, N.Y., Jan. 30, 1817, on February 1, 1838 by Rev. John N. Campbell, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church.

They dwelt in New York City from Nov, 1839 till Nov. 1845; and at Albany till January, 1848, and then returned to New York City where he was living in May, 1877 at 5 East 65th St. She was killed July 27, 1865 by an accident caused by a runaway team, at their country residence in Worcester, N. Y., and was buried there.

He was elected Judge of the New York Court of Common Pleas in June, 1873, and was still in office in May, 1877.

Whitney Family  
vol. 1 p. 713.

CLASS OF 1832

HAMILTON W. ROBINSON

Born in Albany, New York, November 25, 1814.

Died in New York City, April 7, 1879

Was graduated at Union College in 1832, studied law in the office of McCown and Van Buren, and upon his admission to the bar became a partner of Mr. Van Buren ("Prince John"). The latter, when appointed attorney-general, made him his deputy. In 1848 the firm was removed to New York City, where, during the ten years of its continuance, it was very prominent and successful. Mr. Robinson gave particular attention to the law of corporations and municipalities. After discontinuing his partnership with Mr. Van Buren he practiced alone for several years. He was associated with Charles O'Connor in the famous railroad cases which resulted in the notable decision in *People vs Kerr*, by which the Seventh avenue, Broadway, and Dry Dock railways were enabled to construct their lines. Among his clients were George Law and John Kerr, the railroad magnates. In 1863 he organized with John M. Scribner the firm of Robinson & Scribner. He acted as referee in numerous cases of great importance.

In 1870 he declined the democratic nomination for the bench of the Court of Appeals in favor of his friend, Charles A. Rapallo. In the same year he was elected a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, a position which he occupied until his death. His decisions are conspicuous for fairness and accuracy, displaying exhaustive and patient study of the merits of cases. A commemorative tablet in his honor has been placed in the general-term room of the Court of Common Pleas in the county court-house.

(This sketch has been condensed from a biography in the History of the Court of Common Pleas of the City and County of New York by James Wilton Brooks--1896)

History of the Bench and Bar of New York Vol. 1 p. 464  
New York History Co.  
1897

Hamilton W. Robinson, jurist, was born in Albany, N. Y., Nov. 25, 1814, son of James W. Robinson, a prominent business man of that city, who exerted a most inspiring influence upon his son and trained him at home in the most careful manner. Young Robinson prepared for college at the Albany Academy and then entered Union College, where he was known as a diligent and ambitious student and a genial companion. On graduation in 1832, he began the study of law in the office of MacKown & Van Buren, at Albany, the former being city recorder. Not long after he was admitted to the bar, he became Mr. Van Buren's partner, Mr. MacKown having retired from active participation on account of advanced age. Mr. Van Buren's taste and aptitude for politics drew him more and more from his practice, and eventually much of the business of the firm was transacted by Mr. Robinson alone. He withdrew from the firm, however, and removed to New York; but in 1845 was recalled to Albany by Mr. Van Buren, who had been chosen attorney-general of the state, and desired Mr. Robinson to act as his deputy. Having complied, he took up also the business of the old firm, and was so busily engaged in the preparation of pleading, opinions and briefs that he was but rarely seen in the courts. Soon after the close of Mr. Van Buren's term of office, he and Mr. Robinson removed to New York City, where they built up a large practice. In 1850 they came prominently before the public in counsel for Edwin Forrest, being opposed by Charles O'Conar. Although Mr. Robinson disliked to appear in the court room, he became widely known for his learning and ability, and was constantly sought as a referee, by consent of parties,, his record in that capacity being unequalled in the history of the state. The partnership lasted for ten years, and then Mr. Robinson practiced alone until 1863. During this period he was counsel for the Seventh Avenue, Broadway, Dry Dock, and other railroads. In 1863 he formed a co-partnership with John M. Scribner that was of seven years' duration. In 1870 he was offered by the Democrats the nomination to the judgeship of the court of appeals; but, although his election seemed certain, declined in favor of his friend, Charles A. Rapallo; but in the same year, at the urgent request of Judge Charles P. Daly, he consented to become a candidate for the judgeship of the court of common pleas, and was elected. The duration of his term was to be fourteen years and six months, and he took his seat July 1, 1870. His great legal ability, assiduity and faithfulness, his supreme love of right and truth, his unselfishness, his modesty, his urbanity of manner, his tender and affectionate disposition, commanded for him universal respect. A memorial tablet, presented to the court by the bar of New York in 1895 and erected in the county court house, extols him as an honor to the judiciary and to the profession, and as an able and upright judge. Judge Robinson was twice married: first, to Emma Whitney, of Albany, who died in 1865; and second to Mrs. Catherine D. Barker, of Albany, who survived him. He left two daughters and two sons, one of whom, Henry A. Robinson, is a lawyer in New York city, Judge Robinson died in New York city, April 17, 1879.



CLASS OF 1832

HAMILTON W. ROBINSON

Fifteenth Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, was born in Albany, N. Y., November 25, 1814, son of James W. Robinson, a prominent and well-known business man of that city.

He was educated at the Albany Academy and Union College, being graduated A. B., in the class of 1832. Among his classmates were Alexander W. Bradford, afterwards Surrogate of New York County; Gilbert M. Spier, late Judge of the Superior Court; and Lieutenant-Governor David R. Floyd-Jones. After graduation he began the study of law in the office of McCown & Van Buren, in Albany, and upon his admission to the bar, became a partner of Mr. Van Buren, who, having been made Attorney-General, appointed him his deputy. The firm continued prominent at the bar of Albany until their removal in 1848 to New York City, where for the next ten years they were most active and successful.

Judge Robinson's experience as deputy and assistant to the Attorney-General gave him a practical knowledge of the law of corporations and municipalities which thereafter became his specialty in practice.

Among their first clients in New York was Edwin Forrest, whom they represented as attorneys in his famous twenty-year divorce suit.

After the termination of their partnership, Judge Robinson carried on his practice alone for several years. In that time he acted as referee in numerous important cases and achieved a well-deserved popularity in that capacity. George Law and John Kerr, the railroad magnates, were his clients, and in connection with with Charles O'Connor, he played an important part in the famous railroad cases which resulted in the notable decision in *People vs Kerr*, by which the Seventh Avenue, Broadway, and Dry Dock Railroads were enabled to construct their lines. He was counsel for these companies and others, and continued as referee in a vast number of important cases, which were referred to him by consent of parties, until his elevation to the bench.

In 1863, Judge Robinson formed a co-partnership with Mr. John M. Scribner under the style of Robinson & Scribner, which was continued for seven years.

Mr. Robinson declined the Democratic nomination to the Judgeship of the Court of Appeals in 1870 in favor of his friend, Charles A. Rapallo, who was consequently elected; but, in the following May, accepted the nomination to the bench of the Court of Common Pleas, to which he was elected for a term of fourteen years and six months, beginning July 1, 1870.

January 23<sup>rd</sup> - 1940.

To the Editor of Union College Newspaper

Dear Sir

I am writing you to know if your paper carries such a column whereby I can insert an ad relative to a painting that I desire selling which is part of my husband's estate.

I believe it may be of interest to some of your readers parents who would purchase it and donate it to the college.

I know the college would be very proud to possess it, as it is a painting of one of your distinguished alumnus, the late Judge Hamilton Robinson, the college already has a collection of his papers and writings.

The painting is the work of a famous Danish artist, framed most magnificently. Kindly advise me what you would suggest and your charges.

Appreciating your early reply.

Mrs Adeline C. Lewis

58 West 58<sup>th</sup>

N.Y.C.

over

The size of painting is  
48 x 36 inches.

Dr. Foy answered  
a later letter on  
some subject.  
He suggested  
that many  
portraits are  
acquired by  
gift of relatives.

June 7, 1930

Mrs. Fanny R. McLaughlen  
Worcester, New York

My dear Mrs. McLaughlen,

I am pleased that you sent me the picture of the home your father built. It is a lovely old place and I envy families that have such visible evidences of a dignified past. I am putting this post card with your father's biographical data.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

CNW/ab

it belonged.

My Father left a family of 3 children  
Emma, M<sup>rs</sup> Harris  
James Bachelor  
Fanny M<sup>rs</sup> N. B. Laughlin  
Anna Mrs Wood  
Henry A. Robinson.

Enclose a picture of my Father's  
home built in 1832. It is in  
an excellent state of preservation

Respectfully  
Yours  
Anna J. Laughlin

Worcester, N. J.  
June 6<sup>th</sup> 1930.

C. M. Waldron.  
Dear Sir

I trust that you  
will pardon my seeming rudeness  
in not answering your very kind  
note of May 16<sup>th</sup> <sup>day</sup> more promptly.  
but I am not very well and am  
now 86 years of age. I cannot do  
as I desire to.

I greatly appreciated  
your accepting my dear Father's  
portrait so graciously. as for some  
time I have desired it might be  
sent to his College, where I felt

Naval Demonstration in the Dardanelles in Case the Sultan Refuses to Yield to Their Demands.

# A TABLET OF REVERENCE,

Dec. 1895

## The Late Judge Robinson's Memorial Bronze Unveiled in Common Pleas Court.

### Chief Judge Daly Recalls the Humanity and Ability Which Made Him Famous.

#### HIS MOST CELEBRATED DECISION.

##### The Case of Story Against the Manhattan Elevated Railway Recalled by Lawyer Parsons.

Judge Hamilton W. Robinson's memory was honored yesterday by the unveiling of a beautiful bronze memorial tablet, placed on the wall of the General Term room of the Court of Common Pleas, in recollection of nine years of judicial service that ended at his death, in 1879. The tablet measures 42 by 24 inches, and

all who knew him. By this small tribute to his name we wish to perpetuate the feeling of reverence which those entertain most sincerely who had the fortune to be associated with him.

The speaker expressed his hope that Judge Robinson's good deeds would be recalled by the tablet:

"All who look upon this memorial," he continued, "will do well to remember what a shock to the community it was when the news of the great jurist's death was made known.

"The sight of this tablet should induce the beholder to revere the judiciary. I will not now dwell on the details of the life of Judge Robinson, because at the meeting held in 1879 they were fully and fairly gone over, and many of us here today remember them well."

#### HIS FAMOUS DECISION.

Lawyer Parsons recalled Judge Robinson's famous decision in the celebrated case of Story against the Manhattan Elevated Railway Company. He added:

"That decision was sound and showed Judge Robinson's great regard for the letter of the law. The decision was against the property-holders, but it was in accordance with legislative enactments and was applauded by every member of the Bar."

Judge Robinson, he said, was one of the intellectual giants and forceful honest men of his period. He associated the Judge's name with those of many wonderful lawyers, and dwelt at length upon Judge Robinson's chief characteristic—impartiality.

Chief Judge Joseph F. Daly accepted the tablet in behalf of the Court. He recalled the names of numerous famous law-

## COLLIS SWORN IN.

### Public Works Department, He Declares, Will Be Run for the Public, Not for Politics.

General Charles H. T. Collis was sworn by Mayor Strong as Commissioner of Public Works at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. He was accompanied by his bondsmen, Henry B. Hyde, president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, and William Brookfield, each of whom qualified in the sum of \$10,000. His appointment is for the "unexpired term of William Brookfield"—about two years.

After he had taken the oath Brookfield shook Collis by the hand and said: "General, I wish you every success." When Mr. Brookfield said the official good-by to the Mayor the latter said:

"I am confident Collis and I will get along as well as you and I have." Congratulations were tendered the General by a number of politicians, including "Jake" Hess, who was in the Mayor's room. Collis said:

"I shall try to conduct the office in the interest of the taxpayers and not of politics. Whether any more Tammany holdovers will be sent away will depend, probably, upon themselves. I wish to repeat here that I shall have especial regard for the civil service rules. The Mayor has not placed me under a single pledge, except to conduct the office fairly and honorably.



Unveiling a Tablet in Memory of the late Judge Robinson in Common Pleas Court.

is framed in antique oak. It is fixed to the wall below the portrait of the late magistrate. The inscription is in relief, and is an extract from resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Bar on April 24, 1879, not long after the death of Judge Robinson. It reads as follows:

In memory of Hamilton W. Robinson. Born November 25, 1814. Died April 7, 1879. Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the City and County of New York, 1870-1879.

An honor to the Judiciary and to our profession. His urbanity and sincerity endeared him to us, and his probity, his learning and his faithfulness to duty commanded universal respect. We cherish pleasant recollections of his well spent life and revere his memory as an able and upright judge.

Resolutions of the Bench and Bar, April 24, 1879.

#### HIS MEMORY EULOGIZED.

Ex-Chief Justice Charles P. Daly and Lawyer John E. Parsons delivered the presentation address. The former spoke of the departed as "a satisfactory judge," and went on to say:

"By the term 'satisfactory' I wish to be understood as making a distinction between a good judge and a great one. Judge Robinson could not be classed as a great judge, but when I say that he was satisfactory, I mean to convey the understanding that he was possibly even better than a great judge. He was conscientious, which quality has not always been possessed by great judges. He was also humane, sympathetic, and led a private life that was in keeping with his public acts. His memory will live in the hearts of

yers who had died since Judge Robinson, to whose "sweet and splendid character" he paid glowing tribute.

## A PROJECTILE FOR THE CZAR.

### Another Rumor of an Attempted Assassination of Russia's Ruler.

London, Dec. 2.—The Central News's correspondent in Vienna says that a report is in circulation there that a projectile was thrown at the Czar in St. Petersburg today.

The missile, it is said, grazed His Majesty's coat and fell harmlessly to the ground. No one was injured.

The report says that fourteen arrests have been made in connection with the affair. Confirmation of the rumor is lacking.

#### Press Club Officers.

The annual election of the New York Press Club was held in the new clubhouse, No. 34 West Twenty-sixth street, yesterday, and the following officers were elected for 1896: President, Joseph Howard, Jr.; first vice-president, Charles J. Smith; second vice-president, Felix Agnus; third vice-president, Murat Halstead; treasurer, Walter O. Eschwege; financial secretary, George F. Lyon; recording secretary, Harry J. Guile; corresponding secretary, Jackson Tinker; librarian, Arthur L. MacKaye; trustees, Charles M. Beattie, John N. Brockway, John R. Caldwell, A. R. De Frece, Thomas H. Evans, John Friederich, William Steele Grey, John A. Hennessy and Charles S. Conroy.

"Mr. Adelbert H. Steele will be formally appointed my deputy to-morrow."

The Commissioner's salary is \$8,000 a year.

In speaking of his career General Collis spoke of his early struggles with law books and his reminiscences of his services during the war varied considerably from the statements hitherto published. After being in the service as sergeant-major for three months he raised a regiment, with which he covered the retreat of General Banks in the Valley of the Shenandoah, for which he was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1862. He was then assigned to the Third Army Corps. As a senior colonel he commanded a brigade in the Army of the Potomac in 1863-4. For meritorious services in the Rapidan the rank of Brevet Brigadier-General was conferred upon him, at the suggestion of General Grant.

He came to New York in 1880, and after a short experience as a Stock Exchange broker became a legal adviser of the Equitable Life Assurance Company.

## HERBS FAILED TO WORK.

### Mrs. Berk Now Sues the Clairvoyant to Recover Her \$7.

James Berk, of No. 900 Park avenue, Williamsburg, disappeared four weeks ago, and since then his wife Rosa has failed to find any trace of him.

Some one told Mrs. Berk to go to Mrs. Anna Buckholtz, a clairvoyant, at No. 540 Bushwick avenue. She did so, and paid \$7 to learn her husband's whereabouts. Mr. Berk failed to materialize, and yesterday Mrs. Berk brought a suit in Justice Murphy's Civil Court, in Lee avenue, to recover the \$7. The defendant denied that she had promised to restore Mrs. Berk's husband, but promised to try and bring him back with the powers she possessed.

"I spent more than \$5," said Mrs. Buckholtz, "for herbs and weeds which were buried in the neighborhood of Mrs. Berk's house, in an effort to fetch the missing man back, and his failure to return is no fault of mine."

The case was adjourned.

ucslaA1832 robinson-h-0022

As a practitioner, Judge Robinson was noted for his painstaking application to the details of a case, never going to trial with any case until he had mastered every intricacy and provided against all contingencies and difficulties. He also made a thorough study of his clients' interests, and was thus enabled to advise them and provide for their particular needs and wishes as would a family physician for a patient. In his judicial capacity he showed deep legal scholarship, and the fairness and accuracy of his decisions were unquestioned so exhaustive and studied were they in every particular. He was particularly noted for his patience and urbanity and courtesy to all who approached him.

On the occasion of his death the bench and bar combined in sincere expression of their loss and in tributes to his memory at a special meeting called for that purpose on April 24, 1879. (See proceedings reported in 7 Daly Reports). A commemorative tablet in his honor has been recently erected in the General Term room of the Court of Common Pleas, in the County Court House, New York, of which special mention will be found in another place. His portrait has hung on the walls in the same room since shortly after his death.

Judge Robinson was twice married, first to Emma Whitney, of Albany, N. Y., who died in 1865 at his country seat in Worcester, Otsego Co., N. Y.; and second to Mrs. Catherine D. Barker, of Albany, who survived him.

Judge Robinson died in New York City, April 7, 1879, leaving two sons and two daughters. One of his sons, Mr. Henry A. Robinson, is a practicing lawyer, and is attorney for the Metropolitan Traction Company.

History of the Court of Common Pleas of the  
City and Court of New York  
James Wilton Brooks  
New York  
1896.

p. 109-111

1832

HAMILTON W. ROBINSON.

Married: On the 1st. inst. by the  
Rev. Dr. Campbell, Hamilton W. Robinson,  
esq. Attorney at law, to Miss Emma,  
daughter of Capt. Sellick Whitney, all  
of this city.

The Family Newspaper. Feb. 3, 1838



Mr. Webster -

Can you tell me any more about this?

Mar. 16. 1941.

EMMA W. WILSON  
WORCESTER  
NEW YORK

Didn't we put the photograph in the biographical file?

It can't be 3 ft long.

Robinson  
Bridgman  
C. J. G. +

Mr. Dixon Ryan Fox,

Union College, Schenectady.

We have none + library has none.

Dear Sir, -

I am sorry there is such a misunderstanding in regard to the picture of my grandfather, H. W. Robinson.

Mrs. Stebbins was wrong in the supposition the picture was an oil painting. It was a photograph, (taken by Brady I think) of a young man about 23 in an oval walnut frame about 4 in. wide with a gold rim next the picture. The long way of the oval must be at least 3 ft.

It really is a very lovely picture.

EMMA W. WILSON  
WORCESTER  
NEW YORK

was a noble looking man. We have no pictures in our family taken of him at that age, so I cannot furnish a reproduction.

We have a fine photo of him when in his 50ties & in the Court of Common Pleas in N. Y., in a black frame 13 X 16 in. which we would gladly give the College if it cared for such a thing.

I also sent two diplomas framed, one in 1832 when he graduated, the other in 1876 when he received his L. L. D.

No mention has ever been made of these so I do not know whether the College actually received them.

Mrs. Stebbins says she will take me with her when her Club goes on a garden pilgrimage to Schenectady in June, then I may be able to identify the picture for you.

Sincerely,  
Emma W. Wilson

A. B.

Hamilton Washington Robinson  
1832

1832  
H. B.  
Hamilton Washington Robinson