

1822     DAVID SPRAKER.

MARRIED: At Schenectady on the 21st inst. by the  
Rev. Dr. J. Austin Yates, of Union College, Hon.  
David Spraker, of Canajoharie, to Harriet Frances,  
youngest daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Rowan, of  
the city of New York.--Daily Albany Argus, Aug. 23,  
1845.

# UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD

PLEASE FILL IN COMPLETELY AND RETURN TO:  
THE GRADUATE COUNCIL, UNION COLLEGE, SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

UNION DEGREE \_\_\_\_\_  
CLASS OF 1822

1. NAME IN FULL David Spraker, Sr.

2. SON OF (A) FATHER Jost Spraker, b. 8/14, 1765; d. 8/19, 1848.  
 (B) MOTHER (MAIDEN NAME) Katherine Frasier, d. 1843.

3. BORN (DATE) Feb. 23, 1801 (PLACE) Spraker's, New York

4. DIED (DATE) October 14, 1873 (PLACE) Canajoharie, N. Y.

5. MARRIED (HER NAME) Harriet F. Rowan (DATE) 1845, Aug. 21,  
 (A) WIFE WAS BORN (DATE) Jan. 20, 1836 (PLACE) New York, N.Y.  
 (B) WIFE DIED (DATE) Mar. 30, 1907 (PLACE) Canajoharie, N.Y.

6. CHILDREN:      NAME                      DATE OF BIRTH                      DATE OF DEATH  
 (They had eleven children, of whom six lived to maturity)

	David Spraker, Jr.	Apr. 12, 1848	Aug. 8, 1917
	Harriet Frances Spraker	Mar. 7, 1853	Apr. 9, 1934
	Randolph Spraker (unm.)	Mar. 26, 1855	Jan. 2, 1924
	Flora Matilda Spraker (unm.)	May 10, 1859	June 19, 1919
	Ferdinand Wright Spraker	July 29, 1861, living	Cooperstown, N.Y. 6/6, 1937
	Sarah Hortense Spraker	Mar. 16, 1865	Sept. 26, 1894

7. PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AT: Johnstown Academy, Johnstown N.Y.

8. COLLEGE LIFE: (A) FRATERNITY MEMBERSHIP Phi Beta Kappa  
 (B) LITERARY OR SOCIAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 (C) CLASS OFFICES \_\_\_\_\_  
 (D) COLLEGE PRIZES AND HONORS \_\_\_\_\_  
At time of death was member of Board of Councillors, Union College

9. OTHER COLLEGES ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_

10. DEGREES \_\_\_\_\_

11. PROFESSION Lawyer; admitted as an attorney of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, February, 1825.

12. BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD WITH DATES \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-President and Director, National Spraker Bank of Canajoharie, N.Y.  
Director, Mohawk River Bank, Fonda, N.Y.  
Secretary and Treasurer, Montgomery Co. Mutual Insurance Co.

13. MILITARY HISTORY AND TITLES \_\_\_\_\_  
Quartermaster, 11th Brigade of Infantry, N.Y. State; Com. dated 9/1, 1825:  
Judge Advocate, 11th Brigade of Infantry, N.Y. State: Com. dated 7/28, 1829.

14. PUBLIC OFFICES HELD WITH DATES Supreme Court Commissioner, 1830, Mont. Co. N.Y.  
Master and Examiner in Chancery, 1833, County of Montgomery  
Associate Judge of Montgomery County, N.Y., 1834-1836  
\* New York State Senator, 4th District, 1836-1839, inclusive.  
Postmaster, Canajoharie, N.Y., 1854-1860  
Delegate to National Democratic Convention at Charleston, S.C. and  
Baltimore, Md. 1860

15. MEMBER OF PROFESSIONAL, LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, SOCIETIES.  
Honorary member, Kappa Alpha Phi Society, College of Physicians  
and Surgeons of the Western District, Fairfield, N.Y., (1836)

16. LITERARY PRODUCTIONS, DATE AND PUBLISHER.

17. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION. Dutch Reformed Church

18. POLITICAL PREFERENCE. Democratic

19. BROTHERS AND SISTERS. 1. Anna (Nancy) Spraker m. --- Lawyer; d. 1868-70;  
2. Catherine Spraker, m. ---- Shaver (Shafer); d. 1866, Richmondville, N.Y.  
3. George Spraker, b. 8/16, 1796; d. 1/14, 1869; m. Elizabeth Spraker;  
4. Daniel Spraker, b. 8/26, 1798; d. 9/1, 1896; m. 1826, Eliza Dykeman;  
5. David Spraker, b. 2/23, 1801; d. 10/14, 1873; m. 1826, Harriet F. Rowan;  
6. Livingston Spraker, b. 1802-3; d. 9/15, 1873; m. Sarah Leonard;  
7. James Spraker, b. 1806; d. 8/7, 1880 (unmarried);  
8. Joseph Spraker, b. 1808; d. about 1886; m. Angelica Mitchell.

20. RELATIVES OF SELF OR WIFE WHO HAVE ATTENDED UNION  
Stephen N. Rowan (father-in-law), Class 1804  
David Spraker Jr. (son) Class 1868

21. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. (USE THIS SPACE FOR OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OR TO  
SUPPLEMENT ANY OF THE ABOVE ANSWERS.)  
\* Also member of Court for the Correction of Errors, 1836-1839, inc.

22. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON THROUGH WHOM I CAN ALWAYS BE REACHED.  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

23. INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY James R. Spraker  
STREET ADDRESS 64 Dorchester Road,  
CITY AND STATE Buffalo, N.Y. DATE May 29, 1937

Spraker, David, 1822

4/2/1855

see; Fight between North and South students, this date, under Anecdotes, U. C.

*Pearson Diaries*

## DAVID SPRAKER

The third son of Jost Spraker, attended the Johnstown Academy, and in 1819 entered Union College, graduating in 1822 with honor, being at the time of his death a member of the board of councillors of the college and of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He excelled in literary composition and oratory, and participated in the commencement exercises of 1822 as one of the two orators chosen by the college literary society known as the Delphian Institute. Mr. Spraker studied law at Amsterdam with Marcus T. Reynolds, (Union 1808), at Albany with Judge Alfred Conkling (Union 1810), and at Johnstown with Daniel Cady, and was admitted to practice as attorney of the Supreme Court in 1825, and as counsellor in 1828 under the rigid requirement of seven years study by the old regime. In 1842 he became Supreme Court Commissioner, an officer who, under the law of those days, exercised much of the jurisdiction of the present Supreme Court, and in 1833 was appointed master examiner in Chancery. In 1835 and for some years previous thereto he was a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery county, and resigned his office in the fall of that year to take his seat in the State Senate and the Court for the Correction of Errors, which was then the State court of last resort, to which office he had been elected, and which he filled for four years from the first day of January, 1836. During his career in the Senate, although probably the youngest member of that body, he established for himself a reputation for eloquence, ability and integrity, which extended far beyond the borders of his native state. Of that Senate, Mr. Hammond, in his Political History of New York State, mentions with approbation only Senators Spraker and Young, for their efforts to prevent the squandering of public money in private schemes, and in the interest of corporations; and in the widely separated counties of Erie and New York public resolutions were adopted thanking these two Senators for their intrepid devotion to the cause of honesty and the public. The judicial ability of Mr. Spraker is illustrated by the fact that upon the construction by the Court of Errors of the complicated and numerous provisions of the celebrated James will, the opinion of Judge Spraker was the only one which was concurred in by the Court upon every point. Mr. Spraker resided in Canajoharie from 1825 to the time of his death, October 14, 1873, in his 73rd year. He practiced law for many years, and for a long time acted as secretary and treasurer of the Montgomery County Mutual Insurance Co. He was postmaster at Canajoharie six years, and was a director of the National Spraker Bank of Canajoharie, and a director of the Mohawk River National Bank of Fonda. In 1839, and again in 1842, Judge Spraker was prominently mentioned in the newspapers as the Democratic candidate for governor of the State. He was a delegate to the National Democratic conventions which met at Charleston and Baltimore in 1860, where he supported the nomination of Stephen A. Douglas. He presided at the first war meeting in Canajoharie, to enlist volunteers and aid in suppressing the rebellion; and

CLASS OF 1822--Daniel Spraker--2

throughout the war, gave unwavering support to that end.

In 1845 he married Harriet F. Rowan, the youngest daughter of Rev. Stephen N. Rowan (Union 1804), D. D., and left her and three sons and three daughters surviving him.

In politics Mr. Spraker was a life-long and consistent Democrat, and was widely known for nearly half a century as a man of great influence at home and abroad. He adorned the many public positions held by him with grace, dignity and honor, and was classed among those accomplished gentlemen and chivalrous statesmen who, not numerous in his own day, have now almost disappeared. Judge Spraker was intimately associated with President Van Buren, Gov. Marcy, Stephen A. Douglas, and many others of the noblest men of our country, most of whom have now passed away. He united the profoundest sagacity with wonderful organizing and executive ability; and his magnanimity, benevolence, and chivalrous daring in behalf of justice, won him universal popular love. His features were classic and commanding, his eyes dark and piercing, his voice musical and impressive, and his manners and movements refined, genial and graceful in the highest degree. He possessed the gift of natural eloquence and frankness, and the enthusiasm and vivacity of youth ended only with his life.

NOTE:--Portrait accompanies this sketch.

FROM History of Montgomery & Fulton Counties p. 162  
F. W. Beers & Co.  
New York 1878.