

Rev. HORATIO THOMPSON, 1823, of Cambridge, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.
(Died: 1882)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

CLASS OF 1823

HORATIO THOMPSON

The Associate Reform Presbyterians of Timber Ridge, Va., Rev. HorationThompson, D. D., pastor, are building a very handsome brick church, not far from the old stone church (Presbyterian), which recently celebrated its hundredth anniversary.

New York Herald Nov. 30, 1856

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 395

CITY OF
CHARTERED
CORPORATION OF LYNCHBURG VIRGINIA
1786

LYNCHBURG VIRGINIA

October 10, 1953

H. MINOR DAVIS
Collector of City Taxes

Mrs. Casper J. Van Loan
Administrative Assistant
Union College
Schenectady 8, N.Y.

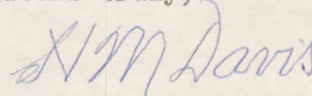
Re: Rev. Horatio Thompson

Dear Mrs. Van Loan:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of the 8th in reference to my grandfather, the Rev. Horatio Thompson. It may be that I will come back to you for additional information later on as I am trying to get some essential facts in connection with his early education.

I will be very glad to furnish you with a copy of what I purpose to write as soon as it is completed. I can only devote a portion of my time to a research of this kind as most of my letters either begin or end with "please remit". Thanking you again, I am

Yours truly,



H. M. Davis
~~City Collector~~

HMD:s

CITY OF LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA



September 17, 1953

Dr. Carter Davidson, President
Union College
Schenectady 8, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Davidson:

I am the grandson of the Reverend Horatio Thompson who graduated from Union College in the class of 1823 or thereabouts. I am seeking to get any information which you may have in regards to his academic record while at College or any other information pertaining to him for the purpose of inserting it in an account of his life and activities.

Shortly after graduation he started on a missionary journey to the south and finally located and married at Timber Ridge, Virginia, about seven miles north of Lexington. He was the pastor of a Presbyterian Church there for over fifty years. At one time he was professor of Belle Letters at Washington College which afterwards became Washington and Lee University and he was a member of the board of trustees for about forty years.

I will appreciate any information you can give me or the names of any historical societies in Cambridge, New York, where he was born.

My daughter who is in the Alumnae Office of Randolph Macon Woman's College, this City, tells me that Mrs. Davidson is an alumna of that College. She will doubtless be interested in knowing that her old college is doing well in these strenuous times for small colleges and has an increase of about forty students at the present time over last year.

Thanking you for any data along the above lines, I am

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H. M. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

H. M. Davis
~~City Collector~~

HMD:s

October 8, 1953

Mr. A. N. Davis
City Collector
Lynchburg, Virginia

Dear Mr. Davis:

Your letter of September 17 has been received and we regret that we are unable to give you complete information on your grandfather, Rev. Horatio Thompson. We have but two items: one, a statement that he was a member of our class of 1823 and of the Philomathean Society; also, he came from Cambridge, New York. The Philomathean Society is the debating society on campus. The other data we have come from Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book, p. 395, and is a copy apparently of an article in the New York Herald of November 30, 1856: "The Associate Reform Presbyterians of Timber Ridge, Vas, Rev. Horatio Thompson, D.D., pastor, are building a very handsome brick church, not far from the old stone church (Presbyterian), which recently celebrated its hundredth anniversary." Prof. Pearson taught at Union a good many years and was well acquainted with many of our students in the 1800's. It was he who formed the basis of our Alumni records as he kept diaries and scrapbooks. They have been carefully preserved and as you can imagine, some of his comments on former students are now priceless. He may not have known your grandfather well for he does not include his name in his diaries.

If you have family material that will be of assistance in completing his biographical record at the college, we would be pleased to receive this. It would be part of the permanent archives and carefully preserved. As you know, careful records were not kept in the 1800's and it is material such as you might send us that would be very valuable. We have an alumni committee working on our records, delving into state library material, court house records, etc., but it is slow work and difficult when the records that were kept are incomplete.

I do not know the specific name of the historical society in Cambridge, New York, and would suggest that you contact the New York State Historical Society with headquarters at Coopersstown, New York. It is possible that in their monthly publication they might have mentioned Rev. Horatio Thompson although he spent most of his life out of New York state. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to write to us.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Casper J. Van Loan)
Administrative Assistant

mvl:hbh