

CLASS OF 1823

JOHN H. VAN WAGENEN

After the resignation of Dr. Lillie the church of Kingston (First Reformed Protestant Dutch Church) had its attention directed to Rev. John H. Van Eagenen, a native of Ulster County, as his successor, who received a call on the 26th of October, 1841. Mr. Van Wagenen was at the time pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church, Linlithgo, N. Y. He was installed December 9, 1841. Rev. C. Van Santvoord (Class of 1835) preached the sermon. Mr. Van Wagenen graduated at Union College in 1823, and from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1826. He was an eminently devout man, and a plain, pungent, practical preacher. He delighted to expatiate on experimental Christianity. He was zealous in the cause of temperance. The seal of Divine approbation rested on his labors in every church to which he ministered. In Sprague's Annals it is recorded of him that "Few men have been more useful. He probably received more members into the church during his ministry than any other man of his age then living. In the end of his several pastorates he was blessed with powerful revivals of religion, and during the last years of his life at Kingston received 163 into the church," of whom 117 were on confession. As the result of a revival 81 were received April 8, 1843.

The ministry of Mr. Van Wagenen was less than three years, and he was greatly blessed in the large number of conversions, in reviving the church, in advancing various objects of moral reform, and in elevating the standard of Christian life to a higher plane. Mr. Van Wagenen died, after a brief sickness from typhus fever, September 27, 1844, and was buried at his request in the old church-yard, near the spot where lie the remains of several of his predecessors. Drs. Ostrander and Gosman officiated at his funeral.

FROM History of Ulster County p. 228
Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester
Everts & Ensign
Philadelphia 1880

Rev. JOHN H. VAN WAGENEN, of Rochester, N.Y., 1823, was a member of the Philomathean Society.
(Died: 1844)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

JOHN HARDENBERGH VAN WAGENEN.*

1826—1844.

JOHN HARDENBERGH VAN WAGENEN, a son of Wessel B. and Maria (Hardenbergh) Van Wagenen, was born in Rochester, Ulster County, N. Y., on the 20th of December, 1802. His father, who was a farmer, and a most devoted Christian, died in his forty-second year, having expressed a strong desire that this (his third) son should be educated for the Ministry. After receiving a common English education at the district school in his native town, he commenced the study of Latin, about the year 1818, under the instruction of a Mr. Loomis; but, shortly after became a pupil of the Rev. James Murphy,† at that time Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in Rochester, with whom he continued till the beginning of the year 1820, when he entered Union College. He had previously been thoughtful in respect to his immortal interests, but it was during a revival of religion in College, which took place shortly after he was admitted, that he became, hopefully, a subject of renewing grace; and, in May, 1820, he was received as a member of the Dutch Church in his native place.

Mr. Van Wagenen was graduated in the year 1823, having, during his whole course, maintained an unblemished character, and been a diligent and successful student. Shortly after his graduation, he entered the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, and passed through the regular course in that institution. He was licensed to preach, by the Classis of Ulster, on the 2d of May, 1826; and, shortly after, received a call from the Reformed Dutch Church of Berne, in the County of Albany—having accepted this call, he was ordained, and installed Pastor of that church. Here his ministry was attended by a powerful revival of religion, as the result of which a large number were added to the communion of the church. He continued at Berne five years, and then (in 1832) removed, and took charge of the United Congregations of Niskayuna and Amity; and both these churches also were favoured with a gracious visitation of the Spirit during his connection with them. In 1835 he was transferred to the pastoral care of the Church in Lithingow, in the County of Columbia. Here he laboured with

* MS. from his daughter and Rev. Dr. Hardenbergh.

† JAMES MURPHY was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., December 17, 1777. In his early years he contracted a somewhat wandering habit, but, about the year 1809, while he was in the service of the keeper of a hotel between Albany and Schenectady, he commenced a course of study with reference to the Ministry, reciting twice a week to a clergyman of the Dutch Church several miles distant. The next year he spent in Harlem, where he taught a Select School, and began a course of Theology under the Rev. Jeremiah Romeyn. In 1811 he entered the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, where he enjoyed the instruction of Dr. Livingston, and was also, during a part of the time, a pupil in Hebrew under the Rev. John M. Van Harlingen, at Milstone. In 1814 he was licensed to preach by the Classis of New Brunswick, and, shortly after, was settled as Pastor of a Dutch Church in Rochester, Ulster County. After a few years he removed to Scotia, near Schenectady, and took charge of a church there; and, afterwards, was successively Pastor at St. Johnsville and Herkimer. At a still later period, a call was made out for him from New Baltimore and Coeymans, but, after labouring there for about a year, he returned to his former charge at Herkimer, where he died January 15, 1857, aged seventy-nine years. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity a few years before his death from one of the Western Colleges. In 1850 he published a work (one volume, 12 mo.) entitled "Creation; or the Bible and Geology consistent with the Moral Design of the Mosaic History."

remained with him always; and I presume he never saw the time, when he was not engaged with serious subjects, that a good joke would have been distasteful to him; and yet he made it apparent to every one that the prevailing tendencies of his spirit were upward; that his highest happiness was in doing good, and his noblest treasure in Heaven.

My relations to him were such that I had the privilege of witnessing the gradual unfolding and maturing of his character, from the time that he entered upon his Theological studies until, to the surprise and sorrow of the whole Church, the tidings went forth that his work was done.

Peter Rouse was of about the middle height, rather lean than corpulent, with black hair and eye brows, dark blue eyes, and sharp nose, and with an expression of countenance revealing an abundance of good humour and innocent mischief. He had great powers of conversation; and, no matter where he might be, he was almost sure—and that without the least attempt or desire to put himself forward—to become the leading spirit of the company. With one of the most tenacious memories that I have known, he had at his command an inexhaustible fund of anecdote, from which he could draw something suited to every occasion. But you must not suppose that his love of fun was ever exercised at the expense of ministerial dignity and propriety—while he was as bright and cheerful as any man you could find, you could hardly find a minister who more thoroughly comprehended the great objects of his vocation, or who lived more habitually under the influence of the powers of the world to come.

As a Preacher, he took a decidedly high rank from the commencement of his ministry. His sermons combined the instructive, the rhetorical, the logical, and the emotional, in fair proportions. They were prepared with great care, were full of solid truth, and of a deeply evangelical tone, and had as much of embellishment, both in style and manner, as was consistent with the best impression. So fervent a spirit as he possessed was a security for an earnest and effective delivery. He spoke out of the fulness of his heart, and his words, bathed in the fervour that had originated them, easily found their way to the hearts of others. He was accustomed, I believe, always to preach memoriter; and so remarkably retentive was his memory, that, six months after a sermon had been preached, he was able, by a slight effort, to recall not only the train of thought, but the very language, so that he could re-produce it without the aid of the manuscript, and without any material variation. I may add that in his public devotional exercises he was fluent, earnest, solemn, and appropriate.

In the relation of a Pastor Mr. Rouse was every thing that his people could ask for. His genial, generous spirit, his facility at adapting himself to persons of every character and condition, and his disposition to identify himself with them in all their joys, and sorrows, and interests, gave him an influence over them which few Pastors have possessed. In his intercourse with his people, he was a warm-hearted Christian Gentleman, as well as a watchful and devoted Pastor.

In his more general relations to the Church, particularly in Deliberative Bodies, Mr. Rouse possessed eminent qualifications for usefulness. His quick discernment, his self-possession, his promptness, his frankness, his undoubted integrity, gave him great influence with his brethren; and if he had lived longer, no doubt he would have become one of the controlling spirits of his denomination.

Wherever he was known, he was admired, honoured and loved. It seemed a dark dispensation that so bright a light should have been so early and suddenly extinguished. With the most cordial regard and esteem,

Yours very truly,
I. N. WYCKOFF.

Foreign Missions; and his reply was that he was born into the Kingdom a Foreign Missionary; that from the time of his conversion this was the grand purpose of his life.

As a Preacher, Mr. Van Wagenen certainly possessed talents of a high order. He was animated and impressive in his delivery, and faithful in declaring the whole counsel of God. He never stopped to inquire how the truth would be received—it was enough for him to know that it was the truth that he was proclaiming, and he was willing to leave the issue with Him who has the hearts of all men in his hand. The Classis of Poughkeepsie, while he was a member of that Body, appointed him to visit the churches within their bounds, to promote the interests of the Widows' Fund,—an institution then in its infancy. Having prepared a Sermon, equally creditable to his mind and heart, (which was afterwards published,) he mounted his horse, and, in the course of the winter, visited almost every church in the Classis. It was characteristic of him never to shrink from any labour that was imposed upon him; and whatever he undertook he was sure to carry out to its full accomplishment.

After accepting the charge at Kingston, Ulster County, he entered upon his labours with the most promising prospects of usefulness. But his course there was brief; for his Master quickly called him home. We met for the last time a few weeks before his death, just after the first one of our class had died. He said to me, with no little emotion,—“And now, dear brother, who will go next?” Alas, I saw him not again—he was the next one to take his departure.

I remember him, as all who knew him must, as an able, devoted and most worthy Minister of the Gospel. His genial and sunny disposition gave a charm to all his social intercourse, and nowhere more than in the domestic circle. There are not a few yet living who love to honour his memory.

Affectionately your brother in the Gospel,

C. VAN CLEEF.

FROM THE REV. CORNELIUS VAN SANTVOORD, D.D.

SCHENECTADY, January 2, 1863.

My dear Sir: I knew the Rev. John H. Van Wagenen quite intimately for several years, both before and after I entered the ministry. While I was a student in Union College, I was engaged, for some five or six months, as a Teacher in Niskayuna, where Mr. Van Wagenen then had his pastoral charge; and I not only sat regularly during that time under his ministry, but was often a visitor in his family, and had a good opportunity of seeing him in his more private relations. At a later period we were thrown into the same neighbourhood as ministers, he having his charge at Kingston, and I mine at Saugerties; so that we were in the habit of exchanging both visits and pulpits, and were, in many respects, brought into very intimate relations. If I fail in my estimate of his character, you will readily perceive that it will not be for want of the requisite means of knowing him.

Mr. Van Wagenen was about five feet ten inches in height, and of rather a slender habit. His forehead was high and massive, his eyes large and of a grayish hue, his hair light, and his complexion sallow. He had a brisk, business-like air, and never seemed embarrassed in any of his movements, though his manners certainly could not be considered graceful. He had a fine, genial temper, which proved a powerful attraction in social life. In conversation he was ready and fluent, and sometimes sparkling; and he had at his command a large fund of anecdote, from which he always knew how to draw to suit the occasion. He was emphatically a man of a large heart; frank, generous and

perfectly honourable in all his intercourse. I do not suppose that any one who knew him well ever suspected him of a disingenuous or selfish action.

As a Preacher, I do not think that Mr. Van Wagenen ever attained to the degree of eminence of which he was capable. Though he was a well-educated man, he was not distinguished for his studious habits after he entered the Ministry, and you were left to infer his actual capabilities as a Preacher rather from some brilliant or powerful thing that he would throw off under an occasional impulse than from the general tone of his pulpit performances. I do not mean that his preaching was not generally highly respectable, but only that there was a power within him much beyond what he ordinarily put forth. In the early part of his ministry, my impression is that the greater part of his utterances in the pulpit were unwritten; and, even after he went to Kingston, where there was greater reason for mature preparation, owing to the more cultivated audience to whom he ministered, he still adhered, in a great measure, to this early habit. Indeed, his written sermons were rarely, if ever, delivered without the introduction of a thought, here and there, that occurred at the moment; and these extemporaneous additions were very likely to form the most impressive parts of the discourse. I have known him occasionally utter an expression, which, for its quaintness and oddity, would provoke a smile in his audience, but it was evidently unintentional, as he had high notions of the dignity of the pulpit. The matter of his preaching was strong evangelical truth, and it was always presented with so much clearness that no one could hesitate as to his meaning. His voice was round and full, his utterance distinct and impressive, his gesture simple and natural. There was an evident sincerity and fervour pervading his services that precluded the idea of anything else than simple devotion to his Master's work.

In the pastoral relation Mr. Van Wagenen was alike faithful and successful. His fine natural qualities of mind and heart, controlled and animated, as they were, by a spirit of earnest piety, rendered him welcome to the houses of his people, and secured to him a benign and powerful influence over them. As he was a man of strong affections, so he easily found his way to their hearts, and he valued this chiefly as a means of promoting their spiritual and immortal interests. His kindly and sympathetic spirit especially qualified him to be a comforter in sorrow.

Of the different Ecclesiastical Bodies with which he was connected he showed himself an active and interested member. He took a careful and intelligent view of every subject that presented itself, and was never backward in expressing his opinion when he thought it was called for. Indeed, perhaps it is due to candour to say that such was his facility at communicating his views that some of his brethren gave him the credit of occupying more than his share of the time on these public occasions.

Mr. Van Wagenen's ardent temperament and strong convictions of duty sometimes brought him in conflict with the prejudices of those whom he would have been glad to conciliate. He was an earnest friend to Total Abstinence from Intoxicating Drinks, and he lost no opportunity of recommending the practice wherever he went. Some thought his zeal on this subject excessive, though nobody could question the purity or benevolence of the motive that prompted to it. He took a deep interest in revivals of religion, and laboured zealously for the promotion of them, though never at the expense of infringing any of the principles of evangelical order. He was a vigorous helper of every good cause that solicited his aid.

Very truly yours,

C. VAN SANTVOORD.

REV. JOHN H. VAN WAGENEN 1823

1835

On the 6th of April, of the same year, the Rev. John H. Van Wagenen was called to take charge of this church, which he served till October, 1841, having, during a part of this time, the care of the church now known as that of Greenport.

Brief statements of Facts relating to Linlithgow Church from its origin to 1854 printed in the "Hudson Daily Star" on Dec. 5, 1854.
Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 69

1823

Rev. JOHN H. VAN WAGENEN died at Kingston, New York in 1844. An account of his life may be found in "Spragues Annals". The article is by Rev. Cornelius Van Cleef.

Taken from letter of W. N. P. Dailey 10/21/22.

Van Wagenen, John Hardenbergh, b. at Rochester (Ulster Co.), N.Y., 1802; U.C. 23, N.B.S. 26, l. Cl. Ulster; Beaverdam, Berne, 26-31, Niskayuna and Amity, 31-4, Niskayuna, 34-5, Linlithgo, 35-40, Linlithgo and Mt. Pleasant (Greenport), 40-1, Kingston, 41-4, d.

See Manual, 1902.

See Manual, 1902.
PUBLICATIONS: A Ser. in behalf of the Widows' Fund. 1830.

Van Wageningen, John Hardenbergh, b. at Rochester, (Ulster Co.,) N. Y., 1802 U.C. 1823, N.B.S. 1826, 1.Cl. Ulster, 1826; Beaverdam, Berne, 1826-31, Niskayuna and Amity, 1831-4, Niskayuna, 1834-5, Linlithgo, 1835-40, Linlithgo and Mt. Pleasant, (Greenpoint,) 1840-1, Kingston, 1841-4, d. He prepared himself for college under Rev. James Murphy. In each of his several pastorates he was blessed with powerful revivals of religion, during the last three years of his life, at Kingston, receiving 163 into the church. He probably received more members into the church, during his ministry, than any other man of his age then living.

1823

A sketch of the life of JOHN H. VAN WAGENER appears in the Annals of the American Pulpit, Vol. 9

$\frac{1}{2} \text{ mm}$:

***JOHN HARDENBERGH VAN WAGENEN.**

New Brunswick
Shedden
Oct. 1784 -
1811

Born at Rochester, Ulster County, N. Y., 1802. A.B. Union
(1823). Licensed by Classis of Ulster, 1826. Beaverdam, Berne,
1826-31. Niskayuna and Amity, 1831-34. Niskayuna, 1834-35. Lin-
lithgo, 1835-40. Linlithgo and Mt. Pleasant (Greenport), 1840-41.
Kingston, 1841-44. Died, 1844.

*JOHN HARDENBERGH VAN WAGENEN,

Kingston, N. Y.

Hon.
A. M. - 1125
Rutgers

Born at Rochester, Ulster county, N. Y., 1802. A. B. (Union
1823) A. M. (Union, 1826). N. B. Sem., 1826. R. D. clergy-
 man. Died, 1844. *Rutgers Coll.* p. 334

Rutgers

p. 334

In addition to the information in the Biographical Record concerning Reverend John Hardenbergh Van Wagenen, I have learned that he was born December 20, 1802, that his fathers name was Wessel B. Van Wegenen and that he died at Kingston, New York, September 27, 1844. *Oct. 1932*

*JOHN HARDENBERGH VAN WAGENEN

Born at Rochester, Ulster County, N. Y., December 20, 1802. Son of Wessel B. Van Wagenen. A.B. (Union, 1823). Licensed by Classis of Ulster, 1826. Beavertown, Berne, N. Y., 1826-31. Niskayuna and Amity, N. Y., 1831-34. Niskayuna, N. Y., 1834-35. Linlithgo, N. Y., 1835-40. Linlithgo and Mt. Pleasant (Greenport), N. Y., 1840-41. Kingston, N. Y., 1841-44. Died at Kingston, N. Y., September 27, 1844. P. 68

45 Laf 1822 van wagenen - ; - 10x8

117 Harding Road
Buffalo, N.Y.
Mar. 4, 1941

Graduate Council
Union College
Schenectady, N.Y.

Dear Sir: -

Would it be possible for you to secure
for me the following information?

I am endeavoring to ~~see~~ obtain data
concerning one John H. Van Wageningen - who
graduated from Union College in 1823 - which
is a long time ago. In the hope that records of
that day and age are still on file I would
like to obtain all pertinent data which may be
available in connection with his registration
at the college - with particular reference to
date and place of birth, names of parents,

March 11, 1941

My dear Mr. Van Wageningen:

We have copies from several sources on John Hardenbergh Van Wageningen, who was graduated from Union College in 1823 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Pages which appear to have been torn from a publication of the Reformed Dutch church, says: "a son of Wessel B. and Maria Hardenbergh Van Wageningen, was born in Rochester, Ulster County, N.Y., on the 20th of December, 1802. His father, who was a farmer, and a most devoted Christian, died in his forty-second year, having expressed a strong desire that this (his third) son should be educated for the Ministry.....He commenced study....under the Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in Rochester, with whom he continued till the beginning of the year 1820, when he entered Union College."

This article says that he left a widow and several children. Can you give us their names, as we should like to add these to our records?

It appears that he attended New Brunswick Theological Seminary and was licensed by the classis of Ulster in 1826. He had pastorates in Beavertown, Berne, Niskayuna and Amity. In 1835 he went to the church in Linlithgo, Columbia Co., N.Y., and from there to Kingston, N.Y., where he died Sept. 27, 1844. The History of Ulster County by W. B. Sylvester, adds that he was buried in the old church-yard (in Kingston) near the spot where lie the remains of several of his predecessors. (You will note that the Rochester where he was born was, like Kingston, in Ulster County,--and was not the Rochester, N.Y., which is now a city, and is in Monroe County.)

The Buffalo library may have the following books, in which you can read further about Mr. Van Wageningen:

Manual of the Reformed Church in America - Corwin, 1628-1902. Page 865
History of Ulster County - Sylvester 1880 Page 228

We trust that these facts will be of use to you; and we shall be obliged if you can give us the names of his wife and children.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. F. L. Van Wageningen
117 Harding Road
Buffalo, N. Y.

C. H. Waldron, Secretary

and if any detail is available concerning his
Parents that information, too, is desired. The
data is requested in an effort to trace family
records as far back as possible, so that if you
may be able to use that as a guide in determining
the types of data to include.

If this data can ~~be~~ be assembled, I would
like to obtain it in the form of a certified copy
and any fees necessary to have this copy
prepared. I shall forward when so advised.
Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly

F. L. Van Wagner

Note: - As we could
send only copies
of copies, we did
not "certify".

ack

117 Harding Road
Buffalo, N. Y.
Oct. 9, 1941

Mr. C.N. Waldron
Union College
Schenectady, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Several months ago you sent me some data concerning Rev. John H. Van Wagenen, and in that letter you requested such information as I might have in regard to his family. In my reply to you, I stated that I hoped to have some of that data soon. However, there appears to have been one of my letters which was misfiled at the office of the party to whom it had been forwarded for reply, and a couple of other letters which I wrote to other parties were not answered. Today, I received an answer to my first letter and I quote its contents as follows.

"Rev. John H. Van Wagenen was pastor of this church (Linlithgo) from 1835 to Nov. 1841."

"The following notations appear in our records:

Rec'd into membership April 1, 1835

Catherine E. Cooke, wife of J. H. Van Wagenen.

Baptized Dec., 25, 1839

Cornelia, child of J. H. Van Wagenen and his wife

Catherine E. Cooke.

Bapt. by J. H. Van Wagenen.

Rec'd. April 4, 1840, Mary Van Wagenen, on confession of faith."

"Whether Mary was a daughter or a sister or how related, there is no statement. A photostatic copy of these records is to be found in the State Library at Albany."

If I obtain any further data I shall be pleased to send it to you, as I note in your letter that he apparently had several children whereas the above information refers to only one as being definitely a child of his.

Yours very truly,

F. L. Van Wagenen
F. L. Van Wagnen

117 Harding Road
Buffalo, N.Y.
Mar. 13, 1941

Mr. C. N. Waldron
Graduate Council
Union College
Schenectady, N.Y.

MAR 14 1941

Dear Sir: -

Thank you, most sincerely, for your courtesy in
sending me the data I have requested relative to
Rev. John H. Van Wageningen, ¹⁸³³ and for the added reference to
books which I may be able to obtain at the Buffalo Library.

At the present moment, I am unable to send you
the names of Rev. Van Wageningen's wife and children as I do not
have that information as yet. However, I received
yesterday a letter in connection with that very same matter,
advising me that this and other pertinent data were
being checked up for me. I hope to have this information in
the very near future and shall be pleased to send you
whatever my correspondent is able to locate & send me
in regard to it.

Yours very truly
J. H. Van Wageningen

CLASS OF 1823

JOHN H. VAN WAGENEN

The Ulster Female Seminary was for some years an important part of the educational advantages of the village. As early as the year 1853 a number of our prominent citizens, feeling the necessity of some better facilities for educating their sons and daughters than those then afforded by the common school, organized a stock company, purchased a site, erected thereon a building, and secured the services of Mr. John H. Van Wageningen as principal. Under his management the new enterprise made a favorable beginning, and grew steadily in public favor till the spring of 1856, when he resigned his charge, leaving the principalship vacant. The same year the board of trustees, of which A. B. Preston was president, secured a provisional charter from the regents of the university, incorporating the school as one of the academies of the State.

From: General History Ulster and Kingston
Nathaniel B. Sylvester
1880 Section II p. 261

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man?

Van Wageningen, John Hardenbergh, b. at Rochester (Ulster Co.), N.Y., 1802; U.C. 23, N.B.S. 26, 1. Cl. Ulster; Beaverdam, Berne, 26-31, Niskayuna and Amity, 31-4, Niskayuna, 34-5, Linlithgo, 35-40, Linlithgo and Mt. Pleasant (Greenport), 40-1, Kingston, 41-4, d.

He was the child of pious parents, who desired that he should study for the ministry. He prepared himself for college under Rev. James Murphy. In each of his several pastorates he was blessed with powerful revivals of religion, during the last three years of his life, at Kingston, receiving 163 into the church. Few men have been more useful. He probably received more members into the church, during his ministry, than any other man of his age then living. He was noted for fidelity, zeal, and untiring industry. His talents were of a high order, and carefully cultivated by an excellent education, extensive reading, and deep, close thought. His mind was clear, capacious, rapid, and decisive. Few men saw a subject in all its relations and bearings more readily or acted more promptly. He possessed handsome pulpit talents, and extraordinary readiness and power in extemporaneous preaching.—"Sprague's Annals." "Ch. Int.," Nov. 2, 1844.

PUBLICATION: A Ser. in behalf of the Widows' Fund. 1839.

CLASS OF 1823

JOHN HARDENBERGH VAN WAGENEN

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PUBLICATION: A Sermon in behalf of the Widows' Fund. 1839.

Manual of the Reformed Church in America p. 865
Corwin
1623-1902