



BRUNSWICK  
JUL 7 1941  
N. J.

THE VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION

OSCAR M. VOORHEES, PRES.

44 SICARD STREET

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.



Mr. P. L. Webster,

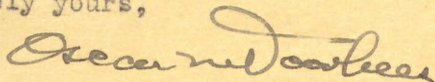
Graduate Council Union College,

Schenectady, New York,

Thanks for your letter of the 5th inst. I hope to give further information as you request, but may not succeed until the beginning of the year.

So far as I now know Van Kleek never received the doctorate.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oscar M. Voorhees".

Oscar M. Voorhees

December 8, 1941

# Canajoharie Church Observes Centennial Days

(Continued from last week)

Other ministers through the years came to the Canajoharie church, follow: Dr. Wells, Rev. Richard D. Van Kleeck, a Union College graduate of 1822, Rev. Samuel Robertson, a native of Troy (1836-1839,) Rev. Edward Osborne Dunning (1842-1845,) later a chaplain in the Civil War; the Rev. James MacFarlane (1845-1848). John DeWitt, another Union College man, came to the ministry here in 1848, remaining but a couple of years. In 1850 he began a thirty years professorship at the New Brunswick, N. J. Seminary. He was followed by Nathan F. Chapman (1849-1854.) Next followed a pulpit supply of three years (1854-1856) by Rev. Eben S. Hammond and a second supply of two years by Rev. Alonzo Welton who was called but declined the same. In 1856 a U. S. dime was officially declared the seal of the church, but for what reason we do not know. Rev. Dr. Benjamin Romaine who had been editor of the Albany, N. Y. "American Spectator" for fifteen years began to supply the pulpit in 1857 but, later, was installed and remained as pastor for five years (1857-1862.) During the Romaine pastorate the church was thoroughly renovated, the galleries removed, the pulpit changed from the south end to the north and the pews reversed. A cloth covered the pulpit, gift of the North Dutch Church of Albany, which had been given the Albany church by the family of the first patroon of Albany, Killiaen Van Rensselaer. Rev. Benjamin Van Zandt, a third Union College man to be pastor here, came in 1862 and remained through 1869. He was a strong abolitionist, which attitude brought him much discomfort.

\* \* \*

Rev. Richard R. Williams, who was of Waterford, Ireland, came from the Seminary (Union) of New York City in 1870 and had a long pastorate here (1870-1883.) Later and until his death in 1915, he was the owner and editor of "The Iron Age," a noted industrial journal. The pulpit was next supplied for about a year by the Rev. John A. Lansing (Union College class of 1842.) A longer than usual pastorate now comes, that of Rev. Francis Stoddard Haines, nearly eight years, during which he added two hundred and sixty-one members to the church roll. The next pastor was the Rev. Mark Austin Denman (1891-1897,) to be followed by the Rev. Joseph D. Peters (1897-1910) who passed away a few years ago at Hempstead, L. I. Rev. George Davis came in 1911, spent three years here, and died suddenly while pastor. During his pastorate the parsonage was erected. Rev. Victor J. Blekking was called to the pastorate in October, 1914 and remained here until 1922, since which time he has served the Cohoes Reformed church. The Rev. Edward R. James began the longest pastorate in 1922 and served until August, 1941. Since then the Rev. Christian H. Walvoord has filled the pulpit.

CONCLUDED

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St. Johnsville *Antiquarian & News*

March 19, 1942

RICHARD D. VAN KLEEK

Born, 1800 (?). A.B. (Union, 1822). Licensed by Classis of New Brunswick  
Raritan, 1826-31. Teaching at Basking Ridge Academy, 1831-34. Canajoharie,  
1834-35. Berne, 1st, and Beaverdam, 1835-43. Teaching at Erasmus Hall, Flat-  
bush, L. I., 1843-60, and at Grammar School, Jersey City, 1860-70. D.D. Died,  
1879.

From: New Brunswick Theological Seminary Catalogue  
1784-1911 p. 82

UCSLA822vankleek copy

R. D. VAN KLEEK 1822

Erasmus Hall Academy, Flatbush, L. I.--Rev. R. D. Van Kleek, Principal.  
The next session will begin Monday, Nov. 6. Terms, \$50 per quarter for  
board and tuition in English and Classical branches. Circulars may be had at  
No. 3 Front St., Brooklyn, or No. 103 Fulton St., New York.

From: A clipping from the New York Daily Times in Prof. Pearson's Scrap  
Book. Dated Oct. 24, 1854.

MS. A. 5-1822 vanKleek - r-0005

Van Kleek, Richard D. U.C. 1822, N.B.S. 1825, I. Cl. N.B. 1825; Raritan, 1826-31, Teaching at Basking Ridge Academy, 1831-34, Canajoharie, 1734-5, Berne, 1st, and Beaverdam, 1835-43, Teaching at Erasmus Hall, Flatbush, L.I., 1843-60, at Grammar School, Jersey City, 1860-70, d. 1870

1827 *Wm. A.M. Rutgers* \*RICHARD D. VAN KLEEK, *Rutgers Cat. p. 332* Jersey City, N. J.  
Born, 1800(?). A.B. (Union, 1822). N. B. Sem., 1825. Clergyman, R. C. A. Teacher. Died, 1870.

Reverend Richard D. Van Kleek of the class of 1822 at Union graduated here in 1825. I think he was born in 1800 but I wish to make sure of the date with month and day and also to know the place of his birth. He died in 1870. Can you tell me the place of his death and the month and day? I wish to know what College gave him the degree of D.D., with the year. *Oct. 1933.*

*From -  
New Brunswick  
Theol. Sem.*

Rev. RICHARD D. VAN KLEEK, A.M., 1822, of Chillicothe, Ohio, was a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1870)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

Registration book says he entered from Poughkeepsie. In May and Sept. 1819, in sophomore class and was graduated in July 1822. His father's name was Lawrence I. Van Kleek.

CLASS OF 1822

RICHARD D. VAN KLEEK

U.C. 1822, N.B.S. 25, l. Cl. N.B.; Raritan, 26-31, Teaching at  
Basking Ridge Academy, 31-4, Canajoharie, 34-5, Berne, 1st, and  
Beaverdam, 35-43, Teaching at Erasmus Hall, Flatbush, L. I., 43-60,  
at Grammar School, Jersey City, 60-70, d.

Manual of the Reformed Church in America      p. 833  
Corwin  
1628-1902

# PHI BETA KAPPA

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Office of the Historian,  
 44 Sicard Street,  
 New Brunswick, N. J.  
 November 21, 1941

Alumni Secretary,  
 Union College, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to request a copy of the record of Richard Van Kleeck of the class of 1822. In an obituary notice it is said that he was b. at Glens Falls, and baptised in the Church of the Messiah there. The records of that church were destroyed in a fire, and hence are not available. If your records give the names of his parents, and other information I shall be pleased to know what they reveal.

As is well known he studied at the Reformed church Seminary here, and became a minister, and later an educator of some note. He was Mrs. Voorhees' grandfather; hence our interest.

Cordially yours,

*Oscar M. Voorhees*

Oscar M. Voorhees  
 Phi B K Historian.



December 5, 1941

My dear Mr. Voorhees:

In re: your inquiry concerning Richard D. Van Kleeck

He entered Union College from Poughkeepsie, in May, 1819; re-entered in Sept. 1819 (in sophomore class), and was graduated in July, 1822, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Apparently, his father's name was Lawrence I. Van Kleeck, but no date of birth is given.

However, a book called "Eight Memorial Sermons" by Abraham Messler (Union 1821) says that on his tombstone in Bayside Cemetery, at Communipaw, is inscribed: "To the memory of Rev. Richard D. Van Kleeck, born October 30th, 1804, and died May 27th, 1870."

The New Brunswick Theological Seminary Catalogue says "Born, 1800(?)"

As you probably know, he was licensed by the classis of New Brunswick in 1825, and was pastor at Somerville, N.J.; Canajoharie, Berne, and Beaverdam, N.Y. Besides, he taught at Basking Ridge Academy, Erasmus Hall, and Grammar School, Jersey City; and died in 1870.

Can you tell us whether he the degree of D. D., and if so, where it was given? Also, we should like to know the names of his wife and children, and the date of his marriage. These personal matters are lacking from our records.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mr. Waldron

Mr. Oscar M. Voorhees  
Phi Beta Kappa, 44 Sicard St.  
New Brunswick, N.J.

From October, 1821, until January, 1826, more than four years, the church remained vacant. On the 25th of that month, the candidate, Richard D. Van Kleck, was conducted from New-Brunswick by two of the elders, and welcomed to Somerville, after having accepted the call. He continued to serve the church after his ordination, until the 5th day of August, 1831, when, on account of ill-health, he resigned his charge.

He was a native of Poughkeepsie; graduated at Union College with honor in the class of 1822. In the autumn of the same year, having been a convert in the revival in the college in the winter of 1819 and 1820, he entered the Theological Seminary at New-Brunswick, and was licensed by the classis of New-Brunswick in May, 1825. It was probably not wise in the congregation to call a young man, nor prudent in him to accept their call. The duties of so large a charge proved to be so exhausting, that his health soon began to suffer; and, not too soon to save a little remaining strength, he laid down the onerous burden. He had, and left behind him, many warm friends; but none of them could say that he had not done wisely. He went to Basking Ridge and taught the academy, left vacant by the removal of Dr. Brownlee to a professorship in Rutgers College. In 1834, he assumed the pastorship of the church at Canajoharie, in the valley of the Mohawk. The next year he served the churches of Berne and Beaverdam, in the county of Albany. In 1843, he became principal of Erasmus Hall Academy, in the village of Flatbush, Long Island. In 1860, he went to Jersey City and taught a private classical school, and closed his life there May 27th, 1870.

Mr. Van Kleck was an accurate classical scholar, a man of literary culture, a good preacher, a gentleman; and in social life, genial, confiding and agreeable. He had made many friends, and died generally lamented. He married, soon after his settlement at Somerville, Sarah Johanna Mellison, of New-Brunswick. One of their daughters became the wife of Rev. Mr. MacNair. The widow resides in Jersey City. His remains were interred in Bayside Cemetery, at Communipaw, Bergen County, and on his tomb is inscribed: "To the memory of Rev. Richard D. Van Kleck, born October 30th, 1804, and died May 27th, 1870. Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

Eight Memorial Sermons (Fifty Years at Raritan) p.203  
Abraham Messler, Union 1821.  
New York 1873.