

1826

John V. H. Van Reypen was born in 1808 and died
in 1829. This information comes from his niece Mrs.
P. K. Green of Jersey City, N. J.

6/10/25



Old Bergen Attic Reveals Unique Geometry Textbook

By W. H. RICHARDSON

In our story of the Fourth of July celebration in old Bergen a few days ago we mentioned the personal mementoes of John Van Reyphen that had been laid away in our Attic treasury for a century, and with which we were trying to call "back to its mansion" something of the "fleeting breath" of the life of that time. Among the relics that have lasted all these years are a number of papers and documents that tell of his years at Union College, Schenectady, which, we are informed by Mr. Charles N. Waldron, secretary of the graduate council there, he must have entered in 1824, since the entrance requirement was 16 years. As he was born in 1808, and he graduated in 1826, it would seem that this particular Bergen boy must have been one to be emulated today.

We have before us as we write, the college list of the courses of studies recommended for preparation for admission: Riggs' Latin Grammar and Forar's Latin courses, Caesar's Commentaries, Virgil, Cicero; Mook's Greek Grammar, Greek Testament, arithmetic, English Grammar, geography—and a lot of other things with foreign names. The ancient prospectus advised the applicant that less attention would be paid to the particular books read, than to the amount of knowledge acquired. That always has been the hard part, to acquire the knowledge! Then follows the course of studies pursued after admission. My collegiate mentor says it was not an easy course. In the senior year there were four subjects in each term, stressing Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Elements of Criticism, "Laws of Nations" or Greek Testament; Hebrew, Greek, French, etc., etc., were in the long list of things left to the choice of the student. Whatever he chose was hard enough, anyhow. But we imagine John Van Reyphen chose Law of Nations in one semester, because he quotes from that in his "prize ovation" for that Independence Day celebration.

One of his professors was, Rev. Alonzo Potter, A.M., who came to Union in 1822 and whose subjects were mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Why John Van Reyphen brought home his 56-page textbook—and apparently none other—we have not yet discovered, so we dare assume that Dr. Potter was an enjoyable pastime for him at Union.

The thumbbed and battered olive-gray paper-covered "Descriptive Geometry" bears the quilled flourish of "Jno. Van Reyphen" at the top of page one, and the amplified informa-

tion faintly inked in by some owner of the book as to its authorship. On different pages, John has made corrections to the text where manifest printing errors had been made. The cover is scribbled with letters, Rip, G. H., J. V. R.; also the names in full of G. H. (Van?) Hutin, and the title repeated in almost faded-out lettering, "Potters' Geometry." The pen-scroll work and cross-marking much reminds us of what a modern schoolboy might be doing when he should be doing something studious. They make a very human document of it!

Curiously, there is no date anywhere, nor any printed ascription of its authorship anywhere in the book; its title page is missing; but its bibliographical pedigree is established beyond cavil solely because these Union College boys were just as careful as boys were in my own day to assert their claims to their books in these fantastic styles. In doing what they did then they certified to the authenticity of what is probably the only known copy of Dr. Potter's Geometry in the world.

And now in 1925 we hear from Union College that Rev. Alonzo Potter's pamphlet would be esteemed a very valuable addition to their collection of the writings of the members of their faculty, as they have no copy of this book, the first page of which bears John Van Reyphen's embellishment. Mrs. P. K. Green has been fine enough to agree that this unique imprint should be sent "home" at last, where it may rest in an honored place with the library treasures of the college after its century's sojourn in our Bergen attic.

CIVIC BODIES TO HELP KEEP BEACHES CLEAN

Trenton, July 22.—Initial plans for doing away with shore front pollution in New Jersey were put in operation by the Sanitary and Economic Water Commission today, when it voted to ask members of trade bodies and civic organizations, as well as the Women's Committee of the National Anti-Pollution League, to become informal inspectors for the Board and report sources of water impurities throughout the State.

Possibilities that the 800 miles of New York's water front may be freed of floating refuse were also discussed. Although much litter coming to New Jersey beaches from New York sources is garbage, it was said that lumber and other floating objects were also in evidence. A boat equipped with mechanical means of gathering this floatsam, it was said, could periodically clear the waters surrounding this State.

Rides His Bicycle

RUGS



UCSLaf1826vancitysch 2004

UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD

Rec'd 6/25

1. Name in full John Van Reypen Class 1826
2. Born on May 4, 1808 at Bergen, New Jersey
(Give date and place in full)
3. Residences before entering college Bergen, New Jersey
4. Prepared for college at Columbian Academy, Bergen, New Jersey
(If entering from another college, so state.)
5. Entered _____ (Give year, month and class if not freshman) Course _____
6. Left college 1826 (Give approximate time of leaving.)
7. College life. Under each head state kind of activity, any office held, and college year in which active or held office, thus (1) freshman, (2) sophomore, (3) junior, (4) senior.
 - a. Athletic teams (class or varsity) _____
 - b. Other activities (member or officer debating team, musical or dramatic association, press club, Concoridiensis or Garnet boards, etc.) _____
 - c. Fraternity, literary or social organizations of which a member _____
 - d. Class offices _____
 - e. College prizes and honors _____
8. Study at other institutions after leaving Union (how long and where) Rutgers Medical College
Probably 2 or 3 years. He died in 1829. May 14.
9. Degrees (with institutions granting them and dates) _____
10. Class reunions attended _____
11. Commencements attended _____
12. College reunions and dinners attended _____
13. Member of _____ alumni association (if officer state office and date held)
14. Postgraduate office held in class or college organization (member or officer Graduate Council, Trustee of Union, class president or secretary, etc.) _____
15. Relatives (own or wife's) at Union (name, relationship, and class) _____
16. Parents' names in full (with country of ancestry, college, occupation, residence, date of birth and death, and other important facts.)
 - a. Father Cornelius C. Van Reypen, b. May 25, 1767; d. Jan. 6, 1842.
 - b. Mother Aeltje Van Horna Van Reypen; b. Sept. 7, 1769; d. July 2, 1846.
17. Brothers and sisters: (name, date of birth and death, college if other than Union)

Cornelius C. Van Reypen; b. April 8, 1813; d. June 17, 1900.
18. Married Unmarried of _____ on _____
(name of wife, date and place of marriage; if wife dead, date of death)
19. Children (name, date of birth, college, if other than Union) _____

20. Business and professional career, business or professional connections and positions held. (Give each in order with dates when held and place.)

Was studying medicine when he caught cold and died in 1829.

21. Public positions held in civil life (with dates.) (Include such positions as trustee, director, vestryman, etc.)

22. Military history and titles (with dates). (If in army or navy, enter under 20.)

23. Professional and scientific organizations of which a member

24. Social, civic, and literary organizations of which a member

25. Literary productions (with date of publication and name of publisher)

26. Religious denomination Dutch Reformed 27. Political preference

28. Recreations

29. Other facts or remarks

30. Addresses; residential, (a), business (b), with (c) dates when occupied. (Check the address to which mail should be sent.)

a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.

Forwarding address, by which can always be reached

31. Sources of information. A—self; B.; C.; D.; E.

Use these reference letters in checking any information given above and add date; thus A 1|19|20—information furnished by self Jan. 19, 1920. Use extra pages if necessary, numbering answers to correspond with numbers of questions on sheets. Answer all questions noting any you might not wish published.

Rud 6/25

UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD

*

1. Name in full John Van Reyphen Class 1826
2. Born on May 4, 1808 at Bergen, New Jersey, near Jersey City
(Give date and place in full)
3. Residences before entering college Bergen, N. J.
4. Prepared for college at Columbian Academy, Bergen
(If entering from another college, so state.)
5. Entered _____ (Give year, month and class if not freshman) Course _____
6. Left college _____ (Give approximate time of leaving.)
7. College life. Under each head state kind of activity, any office held, and college year in which active or held office, thus (1) freshman, (2) sophomore, (3) junior, (4) senior.
- a. Athletic teams (class or varsity) _____
- b. Other activities (member or officer debating team, musical or dramatic association, press club, Concordiensis or Garnet boards, etc.) _____
- c. Fraternity, literary or social organizations of which a member _____
- d. Class offices _____
- e. College prizes and honors _____
8. Study at other institutions after leaving Union (how long and where) Rutgers Medical College in Duane Street, New York
(this name is printed page 10 of the "Catalog of Officers and Students" Session 1828-9 (printed 1828); also in the 1826-7 Catalog Page 7 (printed 1827))
9. Degrees (with institutions granting them and dates) _____
10. Class reunions attended _____
11. Commencements attended _____
12. College reunions and dinners attended _____
13. Member of _____ alumni association (if officer state office and date held)
14. Postgraduate office held in class or college organization (member or officer Graduate Council, Trustee of Union, class president or secretary, etc.) _____
15. Relatives (own or wife's) at Union (name, relationship, and class) _____
16. Parents' names in full (with country of ancestry, college, occupation, residence, date of birth and death, and other important facts.)
- a. Father Cornelius Van Reyphen, born May 23, 1767; died Jan 6, 1842
married May 31, 1807
- b. Mother Aeltje Van Horn, born Sept 7, 1769; died July 2, 1846
See Winfield's History of Hudson Co. N. J. page 497. It says for relations of family to history of this community.
17. Brothers and sisters: (name, date of birth and death, college if other than Union)
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 <u>Daniel</u> b. <u>Nov 7, 1788</u> ; d. <u>July 1, 1873</u> | 6 <u>Delvick</u> b. <u>May 22, 1803</u> ; d. _____ |
| 2 <u>Gerrit</u> b. <u>Jan 8, 1793</u> ; d. <u>Jan 8, 1819</u> | 7 <u>*John</u> b. <u>May 4, 1808</u> ; d. <u>Mar 14, 1829</u> - (no issue) |
| 3 <u>Elizabeth</u> b. <u>Apr 9, 1794</u> ; d. <u>Dec 7, 1827</u> | 8 <u>Cornelius C.</u> b. <u>Apr 8, 1813</u> ; d. <u>1900</u> |
| 4 <u>Gerrit C.</u> b. <u>July 20, 1797</u> ; d. <u>Apr 28, 1819</u> | |
| 5 <u>Helena</u> b. <u>Sept 21, 1799</u> ; d. _____ | |
18. Married No of _____ on _____
(name of wife, date and place of marriage; if wife dead, date of death)
19. Children (name, date of birth, college, if other than Union) _____

Question 29
* John Van Reyphen was 6th in descent from Juriaen Tomassen, of Ryp, Holland, one of the earliest settlers in Bergen; he came here 1663, and on May 25, 1667, married Prynthe Hermans. He died Sep 12 1695. The family name had the suffix "van Rype" added about 1761; it appears on local records in various spellings - van Rifer, van Rypen, etc.

20. Business and professional career, business or professional connections and positions held. (Give each in order with dates when held and place.)

21. Public positions held in civil life (with dates.) (Include such positions as trustee, director, vestryman, etc.)

22. Military history and titles (with dates). (If in army or navy, enter under 20.)

23. Professional and scientific organizations of which a member

24. Social, civic, and literary organizations of which a member

25. Literary productions (with date of publication and name of publisher).

"Pro Bono Publico" mss. (not published) oration delivered July 4, 1828, to the citizens of Bergen.

26. Religious denomination Dutch Reformed 27. Political preference

28. Recreations

29. Other facts or remarks

30. Addresses; residential, (a), business (b), with (c) dates when occupied. (Check the address to which mail should be sent.)

a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.
a.	b.	c.

Forwarding address, by which can always be reached

31. Sources of information. A—self; B.....; C.....; D.....; E.....

Use these reference letters in checking any information given above and add date; thus A 1/19/20—information furnished by self Jan. 19, 1920. Use extra pages if necessary, numbering answers to correspond with numbers of questions on sheets. Answer all questions noting any you might not wish published.

John V. H. Van Reypen A.B. 1826

John V. H. Van Reyssen ¹⁸²⁶ A. B.