

CLASS OF 1822

MATTHEW HENRY WEBSTER

Son of Charles R. and Cynthia (Steele) Webster.

Born Bovenber 22, 1803.

Graduated at Union College in 1821.

Studied law, wrote a drama, some poems and other pieces.

He was strongly recommended by Hon's. William H. Seward, Gideon Hawley, John A. Dix, and other prominent men for the chair of languages at the University of Virginia, but appears to have spent the most of his life in the practice of law in Albany and New York city.

He married March 10, 1837, Harriet Rosanna Cullen, born at Westmead Co., Ireland, about 1819, daughter of Edward and Ann (Green) Cullen. She came to this country in the spring of 1836, and went to Canada; not liking the country she started in the fall for New York City, intending to return to Ireland, but when she reached Albany, the river was closed and while she was waiting an opportunity to proceed she became acquainted with Matthew H. Webster, and married him.

He died at New York City, July 28, 1846. She was living in 1882 with her daughter, Mrs. Stocking at 53 Tompkins Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Children:- (Allborn at Albany, unless otherwise mentioned)

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Harriet Sybil | December 5, 1837. |
| 2. Henrietta Agnes | January 18, 1840. |
| 3. Kate Mansfield | April 23, 1841. |
| 4. Matthew Henry | Guelph, Canada, June 6, 1843. |
| 5. Godfrey Richard | January 18, 1845; died in New York City, Feb. 10, 1863; unmarried. |
| 6. Charles Edward | Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 12, 1846; Died June 23, 1846. |

Matthew Henry Webster was a half-brother of Charles Webster, Class of 1813; and a brother of Ashbel Steele Webster, Class of 1815 and Richard Webster, Class of 1829.

FROM History & Genealogy of Gov. John Webster Family
of Conn. p. 368.
William Holcomb Webster & Rev. Melville Reuben Webster
Rochester, N. Y. 1915.

1822

Adj-General Matthew Hy Webster of this Const'l family, friend of Lafayette, was a graduate of Union, room mate of Secy of State W H Seward & fellow member with him of the Philomathean Society.; he was a son of Chas R. Webster & the leading citizen of Albany during the Revl'n & for 50 years, Capt of the Artillery of Albany & founder of its first two papers, printer of the books &c of his cousins Noah & Pelatiah Webster.

Adj-General Mat Hy Webster was a grad. of Union, & room mate of W H Seward.
I have their Philomathean badges, sheepskins, letters &c. see p 368
"Governor John Webster" history (Rochester 1915) as follows: " ~~grad.~~
M.H. Webster graduated from Union in 1822. He was strongly recommended by
Mayor Philip Hone of NYCity; General Jno A Dix; Gideon Hawley, Hon W.H.
Seward & other prominent men for the chair of languages at Jefferson's
University of Virginia". He was owner of Seward's organ, Albany Journal,
till it was sold to Thurlow Weed. M.H. Webster invented enameled ware which
he mf'd in Phila; he called it Savery ware .

1822 MATTHEW HENRY WEBSTER

Died: in this city of consumption, on Tuesday afternoon, at No. 240 Fifth Street, aged 42 years, Matthew Henry Webster, esq., formerly of Albany,--a gentleman distinguished for great practical knowledge in most branches of science, particularly astronomy, geology and chemistry. He was many years Secretary of the Albany Institute, carried on its correspondence with the Royal Society of London, and other similar societies in Europe, and was very instrumental in forming the noble library at Albany, his native city. Mr. Webster has left an amiable wife, and five children, totally unprovided for. As no man was ever more ready or zealous to aid the unfortunate, it is respectfully and earnestly hoped the friends of humanity will remember the widow and fatherless in the day of their affliction.

(New York Tribune)--Albany Argus, August 8, 1846,
(Saturday)

MATTHEW H. WEBSTER, A.M., 1822, of Albany, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.
(Died: 1846)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

Dr. D. R. Fox, President, Union College:

Glenn Rock N.J. Feb. 19. 41

Dear Dr Fox:

Your kind inquiry re Ady-Gaul M.H. Webster⁹² my g-father, came in the midst of illness here. The family papers are in strong box & I will investigate later & let you know. However I recall his B.A. diploma & Philomathean badge re are there, letters from Seward to my mother Kate Webster Stocking of Albany. It was always our knowledge that g-father often said he roomed with Seward at Union - which room I do not recall.

These Websters are the U.S. Const'l & Dictionary family, sprang from Govr John W. 5th Colonial Govr of Conn¹⁶⁵², who was son of the great dramatist John Webster Shakespeares friend & "superior dramatist in several lines" pointed out by critics (see the history of all thes & illes. in World Travel London & Bleeding Sq, Oct. 1924: Apr 1925: Apr 1927.

From this line came the cousins Pelatiah & Noah Webster, Yale's 2 chief grads, & my g-g-father, their public, Commander Chas R. W., founder of first Albany & N.Y. City papers. Noah's chief letter announcing "completion of Dicty at New Haven & Cambridge University England", we gave to the press first in N.Y. Her-Trib Nov. 2. 24 sect 2 p 5.

"Govr John Webster history" 1659: p. 368 tells how Philip Hone of N.Y.; Seward & Gideon Hawley, "General John A. Dix" re comm'd M.H.W. for chair of languages at Jefferson's Univ. of Va. My g. & g-g-fathers were founders of Albany Institute J. E. B. Henay, Secy & when g-father went to Europe to get the Smith fortune, he named his chum "Jeb" H. as first Secy. of this Smithsonian Inst. They all ran "Websters Almanac", pioneer in meteorology re: so Union taught my g-father science, language & law: intense religion as per his letters to his brother Rev. Dr.

Richard Webster Official Historian of "The Presby. Church in America" Phila 1857.

U.S. Senate doc. 461 of 1908 Congress reprints Pelatiah Webster's mother-doc. 1783 of U.S. Const'n of 1789

In N.Y. Surv July 28. 36 I lashed Yale for tearing down the Noah Webster House where he worked "30 years & exhausted all his fortune" to prepare the Dictionary. This was the chief lingual memorial of our race. Noah assisted Pelatiah & my g-g-father in putting the Const'n thru with the demurring States, especially N.Y.

M.H. Webster was both lawyer & co-chemist with Savory in making the first enamelled ware: & they had a factory near Phila. He was an orator for Tippecanoe Harrison in his races for the Presidency. Dan Webster a kin, "exponent of the Const'n" looked a lot like Noah & M.H.W. but was ~~course~~, heavier, &

All our boys of course ran to the front lines in the

was: 3 killed in last world war; a nephew in this one; & only the female blood will remain soon; same way Kipling's son did &c &c. But the immigrant & the politician play safe & I see on our streets Jew & dentists &c bearing the name "Webster Garden" &c &c!

It is too crazy & anarchic & invasionary to be funny.

Princeton was the college of our clergy here
 Yale " " " " " Const'l & Dicty here
 McGill " " " " " library & stationer here.

Union stands solid & strong, my father's choice, I suppose because of his Albany pals, & nearness to it.

I was born in Brooklyn, my father Dep. G.M. General G.F.S. in the Civil war, active in the campaigns at Murfreesboro, Tenn. &c &c. & a writer for the Union in a N.Y. City full of rebellion at that time.

All the tradition of my immediate family is that we all & our friends were wholly satisfied with Lincoln, Seward, Grant; the Const'l union & federation being our chief purpose, just as Daniel Webster stated it - "lib. & union one & insepar. now & forever".

My line of Websters of course lie in Rural cemetery Albany & once in Wash'n D.C. there was a memorial to Commander C.R. Webster of the Albany Artillery.

My deduction is that our nation has constantly weakened: we have the foundat'l structure but not the men & not the minds & we lean, as in this war, on other nations - Britain, Greece, China. We aroused & settled the civil war right. I hope the Americans of British ancestry will ride & rule again in each new danger. Thanks for your interest in the one Webster of Union & I will write again sometime.

Yours
 Webster Spink