MATTHEW HENRY WEBSTER

Son of Charles R. and Cynthia (Steele) Webster.
Born November 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:- (All born 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 22, 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.

Adj.-General Matthew Henry Webster of this Const'l family, friend of Lafayette, was a graduate of Union, room mate of Sec'y 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 Rev'l'n & for 50 years Capt. of the Artillery of Albany & founder of its first two papers, printer of the books & of his cousins Noah & Belatiah 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: M. H. Webster graduated from Union in 1823. He was strongly recommended by Mayor Philip Hone of NYC; 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.
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.

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

(Died: 1846)
Dear Mr. Fox,

Your kind inquiry re Mr. M. H. Webster 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 so are letters from Seeward to my mother Jane Webster Stocking of Albany. It was always our knowledge that g-father then said he roomed with Seeward at Union - which reason I do not recall.

These Websters are the U.S. Constil. Dictionary family, sprung from Sir John W. 5th Colonial Gov of Conn. who was son of the great dramatist John Webster Shakespeare's friend & "superior dramatist in several lines" pointed out by critics. (see the history of all this in Ills. in World Travel London & Blundell ed, Oct 1924. First 1729 & 1727. From this line came the cousins Relatish & Noah Webster Yale 2 cl. grad, & my 9-g. father, then public Commander Elias R. W., founder of first Albany & N.Y. City papers. Noah's chief letter announcing "completion of B.W. New Haven, Cambridge University England," he gave to the press, 1st in N.Y. Tues. Feb 2, 24 see 2 p. 5.

"Sir John Webster History", 1657 p. 368 tells how Philip Hone of N.Y. sent to Sidney, N.Y. Rev., Journal. 1657 & 1659. I was the first exec. of the Smith fortune, he named his town "Feb 17. 1658," as first exec. of this Smithsonian Inst. They all ran "Webster Almanacs," pioneer in meteorology & so Union taught my 9-g. father, science, language & law; science religion as per his letter to his brother Rev. Dr. Richard Webster Official letter signed "The Parley Church in America" "Phila 1837. U.S. Senate doc. 961 of 1908 Congress reprints Relatish Webster's mother doc. 1783 of U.S. Constil. of 1787.

In N.Y. on July 26, 1930 I asked Yale for loaning down the Noah Webster house where he raised "30 years & exhausted all his fortune" to prepare the dictionary. This was the chief linguistic memorial of our race. Noah assisted Relatish & my 9-g. father in putting the Constil. store in the demurring State, especially N.Y. M.H. Webster was both lawyer & co-chemist with Savoy in making the first enamelled ware. They had a factory near Phila. He was an orator for Ripper Cape Nunnery in his races for the Presidency. Dan Webster a tall "exponent of the Constil." looked a lot like Noah & M.H.W. but was crosser, heavier. It all our boys of course ran to the front lines in the
I was born in Brooklyn, my father, Gen. D. H. General G. F. S. in the Civil War, active in the campaigns at Murfreesboro, Tenn., & a writer for the Union in a N. Y. City-pub. of rebellion at that time.

All the tradition of my immediate family is that we are all Union friends. We were always satisfied with Lincoln, Sheridan, Grant: The Constil & Secession being our chief purpose, just as Daub Webster spoke it, "lib. & union one & inseparable forever."

My line of Webster is of course Lee in Rural Cemetery Albany & once in Wash. 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 fundamental structure but not the men & not the minds to lean, as in this war, on other nations—Britain, Free or 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.

John Webster Stocking