

1826

J. LANSING VAN SCHOONHOVEN.

Died: Suddenly, in Troy, on the 18th.
inst., Mrs. Harriet M. Van Schoonhoven,
wife of J. Lansing Van Schoonhoven, in
her 30th year. -

Daily Albany Argus, August 3, 1842.

CLASS OF 1826.

JACOB LANSING VAN SCHOONHOVEN.

Married Elizabeth Huntington Chester,
He was a member of an old Kinickerbocker family
of New York.
He was born September 12, 1807 and died April
3, 1882.
Mrs. Van Schoonhoven, who was without issue,
died December 22, 1891.

Ralston
Henry W. Nurce.

JACOB L. VAN SCHOONHOVEN, non-graduate of 1826, was a resident of Troy, N.Y., and was
a member of the Philomathean Society.
Philomathean Catalogue 1830

J. LANSING VAN SCHOONHOVEN

J. Lansing Van Schoonhoven, one of the oldest and most prominent residents of this city, died about 7 o'clock last night at his residence No. 65 First street. He had been suffering from an affection of the heart and, in the closing days of his illness, from a kidney complaint. Mr. Van Schoonhoven had lingered in a comatose condition for several days, his strong constitution prolonging his life beyond the expectation of his friends. The house in which he died was erected by himself, and in it he had lived more than forty years.

Jacob Lansing Van Schoonhoven was born in Waterford, Sept. 12, 1807. His ancestors came from Holland, and were among the first settlers of New York. Members of the family were among the original proprietors of the soil of the Hudson above the Mohawk. Of one it is recorded: "Captain Goosen Gerritse Van Schoonhoven had permission, with Philip Preterse Schuyler, to buy what is now Waterford of the Indians, to prevent those from Connecticut buying it." This was the first purchase of Waterford. In 1669 Goosen Gerritse Van Schoonhoven sold lands Winor-Halfmoon to Philip Pieter Schuyler. Jacobus Van Schoonhoven, grandfather of Jacob L. Van Schoonhoven, was a man of prominence in revolutionary days. He was colonel of the twelfth regiment New York militia in 1775. He was the first supervisor of Halfmoon, one of the purchasers of the village plat and one of the first trustees. He was a member of assembly in 1786 and 1791, judge of the court of common pleas in 1791, and state senator from 1795 to 1805. He died in 1814 at Waterford, leaving two sons, who came to Troy. Guert Van Schoonhoven was justice of the peace, school commissioner, state senator and judge of the court of common pleas. James Van Schoonhoven, father of J. Lansing Van Schoonhoven, was born in 1781, and practiced law in Waterford with John Cramer for about 25 years. He was supervisor of Waterford in 1817-18, and was one of the judges of the court of common pleas in 1820. He was one of the founders of the first bank in Troy, the Farmers' Bank. He removed to Troy about 1820 to accept the position of cashier of the bank, and subsequently became president, which office he held until the closing out of the bank. For many years he was a manager of the Troy Savings Bank, and was president of the Rensselaer and Saratoga railroad soon after its completion. In 1806 he married Alida, daughter of Jacob A. Lansing, whose ancestors gave Lansingburg its name. His wife died in 1824, and for his second wife he married Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob Lane. He died at Poughkeepsie in 1865. Of his six children William, his second son, was a prominent lawyer of Troy for many years. He was one of the founders of the free school system, a brilliant orator, and a representative for several terms in both branches of the legislature. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1846, and a man of great influence in the Whig party. He died in 1855.

Jacob Lansing Van Schoonhoven, the eldest son of James Van Schoonhoven, received a good education in early life, and for one year was a student at Union College. Desiring to lead a business life he left college and was for five years a clerk in wholesale dry goods houses in Albany and Troy. In this city he was with H. & G. Vail--the first house of the kind established in Troy. He afterward conducted a retail dry goods business. Soon after reaching his majority he became a partner with the Vails under the firm name of Vail & Co. After a few years the Vails retired and Mr. Van Schoonhoven, with Ebenezer Prouffit continued the wholesale dry goods trade from 1847 until about the breaking out of the rebellion. The firm of Van Schoonhoven & Prouffit were the leading dry goods merchants in this part of the state. Originally established at No. 163 River street, they removed to No. 227 River street. Among Mr. Van Schoonhoven's partners in the dry goods trade were D. Thomas Vail, L. C. Fisk, P. W. Converse, W. H. Deuel, Charles A. Holmes and James Van Schoonhoven. The latest successors of the the firm were VanSchoonhoven, Fisk & Converse, and Fisk, Cowee & Co., the latter recently dissolved. Mr. Van Schooven was the chief organizer of the Central Bank in 1853. He was president for 20 years, and a director at the time of his death. He was director and largest stockholder of the Rensselaer and Saratoga railroad for many years. Mr. Van Schoonhoven was also president of the American Linen Thread Company of Mechanicville. The deceased was a devoted supporter of the religious and educational institutions of the city. He was one of the prime movers in the erection of the Second Street Presbyterian church edifice, and was for many years an elder of that church. He was for a long time connected with the young men's association, and was for one year its president. Mr. Van Schoonhoven was identified with the Whig party, was a supporter of the Union during the rebellion, and had since supported the principles of the Republican party. He would never accept political office, however. The deceased was married three times. His first wife, Harriet M. Yvonnet, was of French descent, and died August 1, 1842. She was considered at the time of her marriage the handsomest lady in Troy. His second wife, Mary Jane Haight, died February 19, 1858. His third wife, who survives him, was Elizabeth Huntington, daughter of Dr. John Chester, one of the early presidents of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His children are Harriet M., James, Jane Elizabeth (deceased), Francis Y., Mary, William H., Elizabeth L., (deceased), Alida L., and Lansing. The death of Mr. Van Schoonhoven removes a business man who left a deep impress on the commercial interests of the city and a citizen of great personal worth. The funeral will be held from his late residence Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The estate of the deceased is estimated at from \$300,000 to \$500,000. ---Troy Times, April 4, 1882.

Washington County Obituaries Vol. 1 p. 73

Collection of newspaper obituaries in the
N. Y. State Library.

JACOB LANSING VAN SCHOONHOVEN

Was the eldest son of William Van Schoonhoven.

He received a good education while in early life, and for one year after he became sixteen was a student at Union College.

Desiring to lead a business life instead of a professional life, he left college; was for five years a clerk in wholesale dry-goods houses in Albany and Troy. In the latter place he was with H. & G. Vail, --the first house of the kind established in the latter city.

Soon after reaching his majority he became a partner, under the firm name of George Vail & Co. After a few years Mr. Vail retired from the business, and Mr. Van Schoonhoven, with Ebenzer Proudfit, continued the wholesale dry-goods trade in Troy until the breaking out of the Rebellion. During these many years, the firm of Van Schoonhoven & Proudfit controlled the wholesale dry-goods trade of Troy, and were leading merchants in this part of the State.

Mr. Van Schoonhoven was principal among the organizers of the Central Bank of Troy in 1853. He was president of the same for twenty years, and still remains a director. He was director and largest stockholder of the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad for many years, and is president of the Linen Thread Co., of Mechanicville, Saratoga Co., N. Y. He has always been a supporter of the educational and religious institutions of the city; was for many years connected with the Young Men's Christian Association of Troy, and for one year its president. He was one of the few who built the Second Street Presbyterian Church edifice, and has been for many years an elder of that church.

Mr. Van Schoonhoven is a man of sound judgment, of broad and liberal views. He has always avoided the bickerings of politics and refused to accept office, although he has ever been interested in all questions of local and national import affecting in any way the rights of the people. He was formerly identified with the Whig party; was a supporter of the Union during the Rebellion, and has since supported the Republican platform.

Mr. Van Schoonhoven has been married three times; His first wife, Harriet M. Yvonnet, was of French extraction, and died August 1, 1842. His second wife, Mary Jane Haight, died February 19, 1858. For his third wife he married Elizabeth Huntigton, daughter of Dr. John Chester, who was among the early presidents of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy.

His children are: Harriet M.; James; Jane Elizabeth (deceased); Francis Y.; Mary; William H.; Elizabeth L. (deceased); Alida L., and Lansing.

FROM History of Rensselaer Co., N. Y. pp. 278-279
Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester
Everts & Peck
Philadelphia 1880.

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