

CLASS OF 1827

VIRGIL DELPHINI PARRIS

Was the son of Josiah and Experience (Lowden) Parris of Buckfield, Maine.

He married Columbia, daughter of Captain Samuel Rawson, and had the following children, born at Buckfield:

Edward Lowden, b. Sept. 3, 1837.
Virgil Kimball, b. May 10, 1840.
Helen Delphini, b. April 20, 1844.
Percival Josiah, b. Jan. 5, 1849, graduate of Union College, Class of 1871.

History of Paris, Me. p. 687
William B. Lapham & Silas P. Maxim
Paris, Me. 1884.

Hon. Virgil Delphini Parris was the son of Capt. Josiah and Experience (Lowden) Parris, and a first cousin of Hon. Albion K. Parris. He was born at Buckfield, Feb. 8, 1807, and graduated at Union College in 1827. Among his classmates were Leonard Wood, D. D., ex-President of Bowdoin College, Hon. E. G. Rawson of Bangor, Gov. Bowie of Maryland, Hon. Preston King and Judges W. W. Campbell and Rufus W. Peckham of New York, the latter of whom was lost in the steamship Ville de Harve. Adopting the law as his profession, he was admitted to the bar in 1830. Entering upon active life at a period of high political excitement and inheriting an ardent temperament from his patriotic ancestors, he zealously espoused the cause of General Jackson, and in 1827, before he became a voter, organized in his native town the first Jackson Club in Maine. In 1831 he was chosen Assistant Secretary of the Maine Senate. From 1833 to 1838 he represented Buckfield in the Legislature, and in 1838 he was elected to fill the vacancy in the XXV Congress occasioned by the death of Hon. Timothy J. Carter, and in 1839 was re-elected. In 1842 and 1843 he served as State Senator from Oxford county, and in the latter year, when Edward Kavanagh became, by the death of Gov. Fairchild, Acting Governor of the State, Mr. Parris was chosen his successor as President of the Senate. In 1844 he was appointed by President Tyler, U. S. Marshal for the District of Maine, which position he held during the administration of President Polk till 1849. In 1853 President Pierce appointed him Special Mail Agent for New England and in 1856 he was appointed Naval Store-keeper at the Kittery Navy Yard. With the inauguration of President Lincoln Mr. Parris retired from office, although he continued to take an active part in politics until precluded by disease. Mr. Parris had a decided taste for scientific pursuits. He was interested in all branches of natural history and was a collector of antiquities; but he took especial pleasure in astronomy and numismatics. To the latter subject he was a devotee and possessed one of the finest collections of coins in the country, which he took much pride in exhibiting.

CLASS OF 1827 --Virgil D. Parris--2

Mr. Parris was a man of iron will, with great energy of character; his integrity was unquestioned, his impulses were generous, most genial in his companionship. As a man, a citizen and a friend, he was esteemed the most by those who knew him best. Before stricken with disease he possessed great physical vigor, strength, and activity.

He married in 1853, Miss Columbia, daughter of Capt. Samuel and Polla (Freeland) Rawson, who survives at this time (1884).

He died in Paris, Me., where he had resided quite a number of years, Saturday morning, June 13, 1874.

Mr. Parris did not resume the practice of law after retiring from politics. He was one of the originators and prime movers in building the Buckfield railroad, and was interested in all the projects for the advancement of his native town and county.

History of Paris, Maine p. 434
Lapham & Maxim
Paris, Me.
1884.

VIRGIL D. PARRIS '27

The democratic party in the Oxford district have nominated N. S. Littlefield, late a State Senator, in place of V. D. Parris, the present member of Congress from that district.

From: The Evening Post
August 21, 1840
Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book.

✓ **PARRIS, Virgil Delphini** (cousin of Albion Keith Parris), a Representative from Maine; born in Buckfield, Me., February 18, 1807; attended the common schools, Hebron Academy, Hebron, Me., and Colby College, Waterville, Me.; was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1827; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1830, and commenced practice in Buckfield, Me.; assistant secretary of the Maine Senate in 1831; member of the State house of representatives 1832-1837; elected as a State Rights Democrat to the Twenty-fifth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Timothy J. Carter; reelected to the Twenty-sixth Congress, and served from May 29, 1838, to March 3, 1841; unsuccessful candidate for renomination in 1840; member of the State senate in 1842 and 1843, part of the time serving as president pro tempore and as acting governor of the State; United States marshal for the district of Maine 1844-1848; special mail agent for New England in 1853; appointed naval storekeeper at Kittery Navy Yard in 1856; delegate to the Democratic National Conventions at Baltimore in 1852 and 1872; died in Paris, Oxford County, Me., June 13, 1874; interment in the Rawson family knoll in the Old Cemetery.

*Congressional Directory -
Parrisi Directory*

p. 1387

VIRGIL D. PARRIS, 1827, of Buckfield, Maine, was a member of the Philomathean Society
Philomathean Catalogue 1850
Died: 874

Virgil Delphini Parris A.B. 1827

1827
F. B.
Virgil Delphini Parris