

1829  
Hon. W. H. Van Schoonhoven

May 30. 1855

of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 18 29

(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best :)

SIR,—

It is the aim of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the ready aid which they shall impart. This circular will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known, (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow:—some of the questions, indeed, it may not be possible to answer with certainty; others not at all: still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their fewness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned:—Obituary Notices; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, Funeral Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations, Business Cards and Advertisements; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c.; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Alcove of the College Library, to be set apart for "Graduates' Works."

He also requests that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time:—especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, *Librarian.*

UNION COLLEGE,  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y. }

SPECIMENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Glidden Brown was born in Quinnepeck, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderbergh High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls; was admitted to the bar in 1821; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoesen, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832-5; State Senator 1836-8; Member of Congress 1839-41; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842-6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818-20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marblertown, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Haselton, Conn., 1825-30; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831-40; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the "Communicant's Companion." He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Benton, N. Y.; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College at High Holme School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Suncook, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Potecar, of Camerville; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhine, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813-15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830-5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the "Functions of the Brain," and on "Gunshot Wounds."

- N. B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and *authentic* as possible; but when doubtful let them be marked thus (?).
2. When the person is deceased let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge; if he have but *one fact*, let that be sent.
3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.
4. In case this sheet be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the *same size*, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one inch for binding.
5. In cases where no answers to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always authentic.



INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOREGOING SKETCHES.

I. Name. *William Henry Van Schoonhoven.*  
[Let this be written plainly and the middle names in full.]

II. Names of both Parents; thus:— *James Van Schoonhoven*  
[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.] *Alida Lansing Van Schoonhoven.*

III. Birth Place. *Watutnd. Saratoga Co. N.Y.* Birth Day and Year. *January 5<sup>th</sup> 1810.*

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:— *Watutnd 1810-22. Troy 1822-1855.*  
[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New-York City, 1830-54.]

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:—  
[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1815-17.]

VI. At what College he graduated, and when. *Union College. 1829*

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—  
[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1847-48, or Merchant's Clerk, New-York City, 1849-51.]

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:— *Law. Geneva with Judge Whiting*  
[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.] *& also with Judge*

*Whiting in 1827*  
*with whom he formed a partnership*  
*is now as a partner in the firm*

IX. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:—  
[Epis., Somerville, N. J., 1827-30; Pres., Albany, N. Y., 1830-5; New-York City, 1835-54.] *Troy from 1833 to 1840.*

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—  
[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Genesee, N. Y., 1835-54; or Manufacturer, Schoharie, N. Y., 1841-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.]

1846-47, 5.

May 30 1855

Nov. May 29<sup>m</sup> 1855

Prof Jm<sup>r</sup> Pearson

Dear Sir

I send by mail two papers "The Whig's Old Settler" containing paragraphs relative to Mr Wm H Van Schoonhoven dec<sup>d</sup> - also enclosed five newspaper scraps, and a Programme filled by his friends, to whom I entrusted the matter of answering the questions. His Brother has requested of me a return of all excepting the Programme, so whenever you have used them, please remit to me by mail, but keep as long as you choose -

Very Respect<sup>ly</sup> Yours,  
Derick Lane



XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:— *Assembly 1840. 41. 45. State Senator from this district 1846-47, 52, 53.*  
[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1839-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]

*Member of Convention to revise Constitution 1846.*

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.  
[Copies are solicited for the "Graduates Alcove" in College Library.]

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College. *Father.*

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:—  
[M. D., from Albany Medical College 1845; or LL. D., Amherst College, 1850, &c.]

XV. Is there a ~~engraved~~ portrait of him? *yes*  
[One or two copies, together with his autograph, are solicited for College Library.]

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.  
[Send any printed notice, biographical sketch, funeral sermon, &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions, in which case add an additional sheet.]

*Died 16<sup>th</sup> 1855. Emigration of lungs. Typhoid Fever.  
Fry No 57. Second St.*



XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

*Refer to summary paper sent.*

XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family ; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

XIX. List of such graduates as may not be *widely* known ; their residences, professions, dates of deaths, &c. ; the name and residence, also, of some near friend of the deceased, that further information may be sought for ; thus :—

[John Orton Smith, Banker, Chicopee, Mass., died 1848. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]



WILLIAM H. VAN SCHOONHOVEN, 1829, of Troy, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1859)  
Philomathen Catalogue 1830

40 William Henry Van Schoonhoven,  
B.A., '29; φ.B.K. Born, Waterford, N. Y.,  
April 5, 1810. Prepared at Lansingburg  
(N. Y.) Academy and Bennington, Vt.  
Union College, 1828-'29. Student law,  
Troy, N. Y., 1829-'33. (Granduncle of  
L. C. Jones, C.C.) Lawyer, Troy, 1833-  
'55. Member N. Y. Assembly, 1840-  
'41-'45; State Senate, 1846-'47; 1852-'53.  
Constitutional Convention, 1846. Presi-  
dent Troy Board of Education. Died,  
Troy, N. Y., January 16, 1855.

Kappa Alpha cat. 1941

WILLIAM HENRY VAN SCHOONHOVEN, B.A., '29, φ. B, K.

Born, Waterford, N. Y., April 5, 1810. Prepared for college, Lansingburg (N. Y.)  
Academy and Bennington, Vt. Student, Union College, 1828-'29. Student law, Troy,  
N. Y., 1829-'33. Lawyer, Troy, 1833-'55. Member New York Assembly, 1840-'41-'45;  
State Senate, 1846-'47; 1852-'53. Constitutional Convention, 1846. President  
Troy Board of Education.

Died, Troy, N. Y., January 16, 1855.

From: Kappa Alpha in Union College  
1825-1913

CLASS OF 1829

WM. H. VAN SCHOONHOVEN

Died: At Troy, Tuesday morning, Jan. 16th, Wm. H. Van Schoon-  
hoven, aged 45 years. 1855

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 409



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CLASS OF 1826

WILLIAM VAN SCHOONHOVEN

Son of James and Alida (Lansing) Van Schoonhoven, was a prominent lawyer of Troy for many years. He was one of the founders of the present free-school system and a man of brilliant oratorical ability, and represented the city for several terms in both branches of the Legislature. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1846, and a strong advocate of what was known as the quarter sales in connection with the anti-renters, and was a man of great influence in the old Whig party. He died in 1855 at the age of forty-five.

History of Rensselaer County, N.Y. p. 278  
Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester  
Everts & Peck  
Philadelphia  
1880.



VAN SCHOONHOVEN, WILLIAM H.

Graduated from Union College 1829 - A.B. degree

The following information was taken from the Union College Student Records  
First Term 1827-1828 to Second Term 1828-1829, in which he is listed as  
No.4:

Academic Year 1827-1828 - Junior Year

	<u>First Term</u> <u>Ending December</u> Examination	<u>Second Term</u> <u>Ending April</u> Examination	<u>Third Term</u> <u>Ending July</u> Examination
Attendance	100%	94%	100%
Conduct	100	100	100
Blair (Rhetoric)	95		
Geometry	95		
Natural History	95		
Parley (?) Greek (Paley ?)		95	
Political Economy		95	
Cicero de Oratore		95	
Intellectual Philosophy			99
Natural Philosophy			90
French			85

Academic Year 1828-1829 - Senior Year

	<u>First Term</u> <u>Ending December</u> Examination	<u>Second Term</u> <u>Ending April</u> Examination	<u>Third Term</u> <u>Ending July</u> Examination
Attendance	99%	99%	
Conduct	100	100	
Natural Philosophy	90		
Chemistry	98	98	
Kames (Criticism)	100	100	
Astronomy		97	
Anatomy			97%
Physiology			97



The Alumni Monthly of December, 1926 says:

"The New York papers under date of Oct. 15 announce that the will of Mrs. Harriet V. S. Thorne establishes a scholarship in memory of her father, William Henry Van Schoonhoven, of the class of 1829. The actual provision in the will reads,

"Third. I give and bequeath Five Thousand Dollars to Union University of Schenectady, New York, for the establishment of a scholarship in such subjects as the trustees of said university shall elect, such scholarship to be in memory of my father, William Henry Van Schoonhoven'."



William Henry Van Schoonhoven  
A.B. 1829



1829  
F. B.  
William Henry Van Schoonhoven