Dec. 14, 1813.—McLean, a member of Junior class is sustained in his examinations.

Mar. 31, 1814.—"McLean", member of Junior class, sustained in his exams.

July 26, 1814.—Admitted to Senior class.

" " ".—The faculty minutes list McLean among those who had entered since last commencement. This proves he entered as a Junior.

Apr. 5, 1815.—McLean, member of senior class, sustained in exams.

Feb. 9, 1815.—The Trustees minutes list McLean among the Seniors who are expected to receive their first degree in July.

Apr. 6, 1815.—The Faculty minutes list McLean as among the honor men He is to deliver an "oration on eloquence".

July 25, 1815.—Recommended by faculty for first degree.

" " ".—The Trustees confer first degree in arts upon "John McLean." This is the first mention of his given name.

McLean's name in every list follows "Lansing" and in most instances is followed by the same name. This is true when it is spelled "MacLean" and when the first name is given.

The Centennial Catalogue prints his name as "John McLean."

Entered from Cambridge, N. Y., Lawyer, A. M., died 1858, not the John McLean who was Pres. of Princeton.


C. Feb. 1887.
JOHN MacLEAN, '15,

was born at Princeton, N. J., in 1800.
He was graduated also at the college of New Jersey in 1816, was Tutor there till 1822, then teacher in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, then Professor of Mathematics for five years, Professor of Ancient Languages and Vice-president for twenty-five years, President for twelve years, retiring in 1868. He was a Smithsonian Regent, D.D. and LL.D. He died in 1887.

JOHN MCLEAN, Jun. A.M., 1815, a resident of Cambridge, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.

Died: 1886

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

1815 John McLean
Discourse in his Commemoration 34 pp.
By William E. Sprague
April 7, 1861
Copy in N.Y. State Library
in Bound Vol.
Class Mark 0 40
A
vol. 75
McLean, John
From: Cambridge, N.Y.
Last residence: Princeton, N.J.

Records show one
John McLean
Pvt. in Capt. Ira Gale's Co.,
9th Regt. (Vosburgh's) N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Sept 8, 1812
Expiration of service: Mar 18, 1813

This is probably the Col. McLean who was pres. of N.J.

He was a native, and always a resident, of Warren Co. His father was one of the most distinguished citizens of the county, holding among other offices the office of judge for a long time, and was one of her representatives in the state legislature. The deceased was not only one of the most distinguished citizens of the county, but the peer of any in the state. After graduating from Union College, he studied law, in part with Hon. Gideon Hawley, of Albany, and part of the time in Salem, at which time Justices Nelson and Willard were his fellow-students. In 1813 he was admitted to the bar, and entered into business in partnership with the Hon. John Crary, of Salem; and shortly after he was appointed examiner in chancery, which place he filled for a long time, and then was appointed master in chancery, which places he held under Chancellors Kent and Walworth, and performed the duties thereof with such ability as to elicit the encomium from them of being the best officer in the state. During the years 1829 to and including 1832 he represented Washington Co., in the Senate of New York, and in 1837 he was again elected to the same office, to fill the vacancy of I. W. Bishop, who resigned. After holding the office of one of the county judges for a while, he was appointed in 1835, by Governor Marcy, first judge of Washington Co., which office he held until 1847, performing its duties with such ability, and credit to himself, and honor to the bench, as to attract much business to that court from the Circuit Court. In 1835 he was also appointed a regent of the university, which office he held up to the time of his decease. In political life he was an associate of the best men of the democratic party in its best days, a friend of Silas Wright and Gov. Marcy. Gov. Wright appointed him one of the commissioners to establish ferries between New York and Long Island. His colleagues in that service were George P. Barker, of Erie, and Samuel Cheever, of Saratoga. It may truly be said of him, that, instead of the office honoring him, he honored the office. His well-balanced and discriminating mind, his instinctive sense of justice and equity, his due appreciation of the principles on which they are founded, his stern independence and decision of character, his high sense of honor, and his inflexible uprightness of heart, connected with a dignity of mind and manner softened by a grace peculiarly his own, probably qualified and designated him most preeminently to adorn and elevate the bench, although at the same time fitting him for any civil station, however high and honorable, to which man is invited. In private life his many virtues were remarkably preeminent. He was honest in all his relations with his fellow-man, a pattern of punctuality in his engagements and appointments, always courteous and always dignified in his intercourse with others, ever manifesting a deep interest in the character and welfare of young men around him, and eager to encourage and stimulate merit wherever it was exhibited.

CLASS OF 1815

JOHN McLEAN

Annual Obituary Notices p.219 Crosby 1859
June 7, 1946

H. Hobart Holly

45 Christopher Street, New York 14, New York

Union College,
Schenectady, N.Y.

Gentlemen -

I would be interested in any information you can give me from your college or alumni records, regarding JOHN MCLEAN who was graduated from Union about 1815; including his ancestry, parentage, class, residence, etc.

My interest in this matter is that Mrs. Holly is a descendant of Judge McLean.

Thanking you for any information you can furnish,

I am

Very truly yours,

H. H. Holly
June 20, 1946

Dear Mr. Holly,

We are enclosing data on John McLean. We have no more family information. We should like to add to the record here the names of his children, and perhaps you could furnish that information.

Sincerely yours,

Administrative Assistant
1815

JOHN McLEAN.

Married: At Salem, Washington County, on the 23d. inst. by the Rev. Dr. Proudfit, John McLean, Jun. esq., to Miss Maria Blanchard, daughter of the Hon. Anthony Blanchard.

Daily Albany Argus. Sept. 27, 1822.
Graduate Council,
Union College,
Schenectady, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I wish to thank you for your letter of June 20, 1946 enclosing information regarding Hon. John McLean of the class of 1815.

In reply to your request for information regarding his family, I am glad to give the following:

Born Sept. 19, 1793
Died Dec. 5th, 1853
Married Sept. 23, 1822, Maria Blanchard, dau of Hon. Anthony J. Blanchard. She was born Oct. 12, 1796 and died Mar. 20, 1827.
Their children were as follows:
Maria Blanchard McLean born Sept. 7, 1823
   wife of Alexander M. Proudfit.
Catherine McLean born Oct. 26, 1825
   wife of Stephen Payn Nash.
Susannah McLean born March 2, 1827 who was adopted and brought up by her aunt and uncle Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Ross.

My reason for writing you in regard to Judge McLean is that my wife is a descendant through Catherine McLean Nash.

Very Truly yours,

H. H. Holly
"When Justice McLean of the Supreme Court died late in 1861, friends of Davis moved to place him on the high bench. Old Eighth Circuit Lawyers became active. Swett spoke for him personally to Lincoln. Lawrence Weldon wrote to Lamon: 'Why not David Davis, especially when he was so instrumental in giving position to him who now holds the matter in the hollow of his hand? Dear Hill, if justice and gratitude are to be respected Lincoln can do nothing less than to tender the position to Judge Davis. I want you to suggest it to Lincoln.' Hawkins Taylor, an Iowa delegate to the Chicago convention which nominated Lincoln, wrote to the President: 'I will say that in my honest opinion, with every opportunity of knowing, that but for the extraordinary effort of Judge Davis, you would not have received the nomination at the Chicago convention. I can say to you that I consider your nomination providential. It is due to yourself as well as to Judge Davis that you should tender him the appointment of Supreme Judge.'"