

In the Annual Meeting of the Alumnae/Alumni Associations, May 19, 2017

This award shows your deep respect for Academy history, something we share. Many of the alumni so designated were mentors to me, some teachers, colleagues, and schoolmates. Two *I* had the pleasure to teach.

Special to my heart is John Hawn, recipient in 1964. He was chairman of the 150th anniversary fund, the fruit of which is the Field House. Later he was president of the board. In the 1950s, John was a kind and knowledgeable mentor to cadet officers.

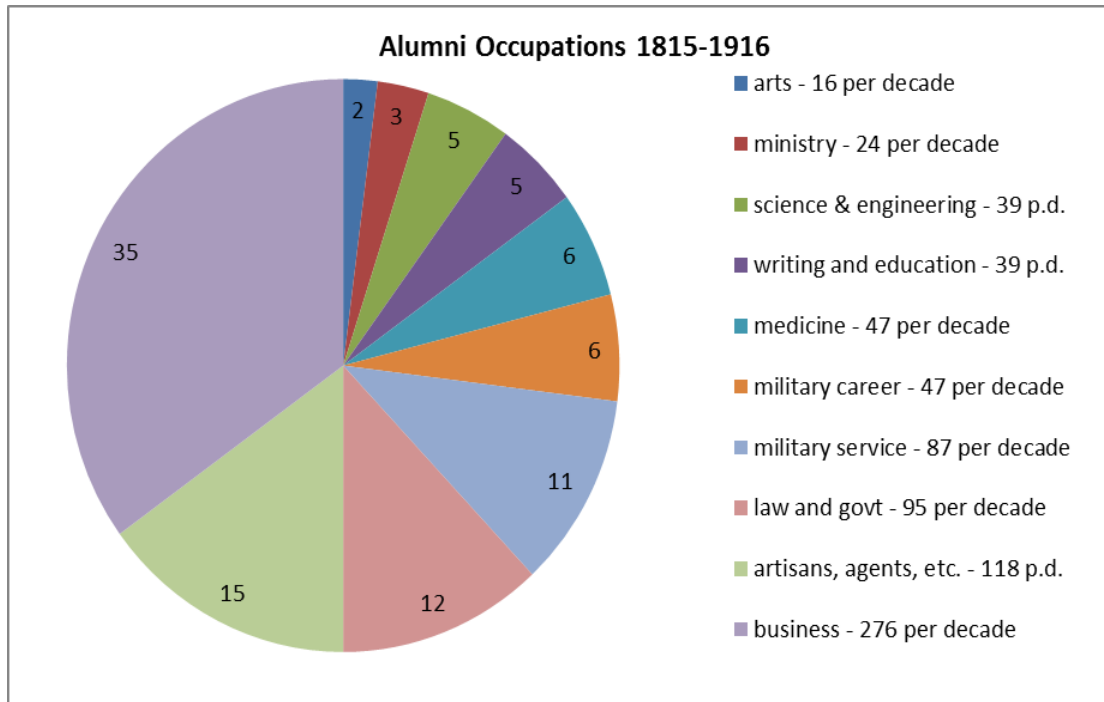
When I began teaching here in 1963, I came across Dr. Henry H. Hun's "Ancestry and Achievements of Academy Students," a typed manuscript in five volumes of the research compiled by his father, Dr. Henry Hun, Class of 1870.

Trustee Prentiss Carnell, Jr. (not young Prentiss III, Class of 1952, but his father) offered me the task of writing the historical account of the school from the 125th anniversary (1938) to the 150th (1963) and Harry Meislahn allowed me to collect disparate holdings into an Archives. The Mothers Association helped me attend graduate school where I wrote an account of Albany and its early nineteenth century schools, the Lancaster School, Albany Academy, and Albany Female Academy. After Caroline Mason brought me back to the faculty as Archivist in 2007, I wrote two short histories of each of our schools, covering the bicentennial stories. You may download them from the "archives" section of www.albanyhistory.org.

Last year I published as a biographical dictionary the data collected by the Dr.s Hun on nearly 8,000 students of the first century. The work contains vital statistics, Academy achievements, post-graduate education, employment, residence, and family information. I appended a history of the times, of the school, and lists of all the prize recipients, school officials, positions of student leadership, and war records. This year, Richard Ognibene edited an account of all the institutions of higher education founded in the early days of the Capital District. It includes the stories of Union, Albany Academy, Albany Female Academy, Emma Willard School, R. P. I., Albany Normal College, the Medical College, and the Law School. I wrote the chapter on the City of Albany and its Academies.

The broad historical relevance of the Academies rests on the roles so many of its former students played in their professions and communities. The accomplishments of first century *alumnae* women that stand out are teaching, writing, women's societies, missionary work, and philanthropic organizations. For first century *alumni* careers we have more specific data. From almost half the 8,000 records, we can see that the distribution of the careers of Academy men matched the needs of the 19th and early 20th centuries. There are

biographical anecdotes in the printed version of these remarks, and thousands in the Hun/McClintock book.



based on career data for 3,700 of 7,883 total alumni

2% (16 alumni every decade, on average, projected) had careers in **art, music, drama, and architecture**. An example is Frederik Fink (entered 1831), who studied art with Samuel F. B. Morse, and painted many works listed in the Smithsonian National Art Inventory.

3% (24 per decade) went in the **ministry**. John Loughlin (1830) was the first Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, serving 38 years and supervising a prodigious growth of parishes, schools, hospitals and orphanages.

5% (39 per decade) went into the entirely new fields of **science and engineering**. Many had important roles in projects you would recognize: New York's Central Park, the Croton Aqueduct, railroads and bridges around the United States and Middle and South America. Benjamin Franklin Isherwood (1831) was a field-trained engineer. He did early railroad, canal, and lighthouse work, served the U. S. Navy in the Mexican and Civil Wars, rising to Rear Admiral and Engineer-in-Chief. He founded the Navy's Bureau of Ships, designed steam engines and propellers, and was the author of fundamental engineering texts.

5% (39 per decade) of first century alumni went into **writing and education**. We produced editors of the *Times Union*, *New York Times*, *New York Tribune*, *Philadelphia Press*, and other newspapers, editors of *Scientific American* and

The Saturday Review of Literature. We have a Pulitzer Prize winner in Poetry (William Rose Benet). Sixty alumni became college professors and eight, college presidents (Lake Forest, Hobart, Georgetown, Albany Business College, New York State Normal School, NYU Law School). John Pitkin Norton (1829) went from the Academy to Yale, became a chemistry professor there and helped establish the department that became Yale's eminent Sheffield Scientific School. He wrote *Elements of Scientific Agriculture*.

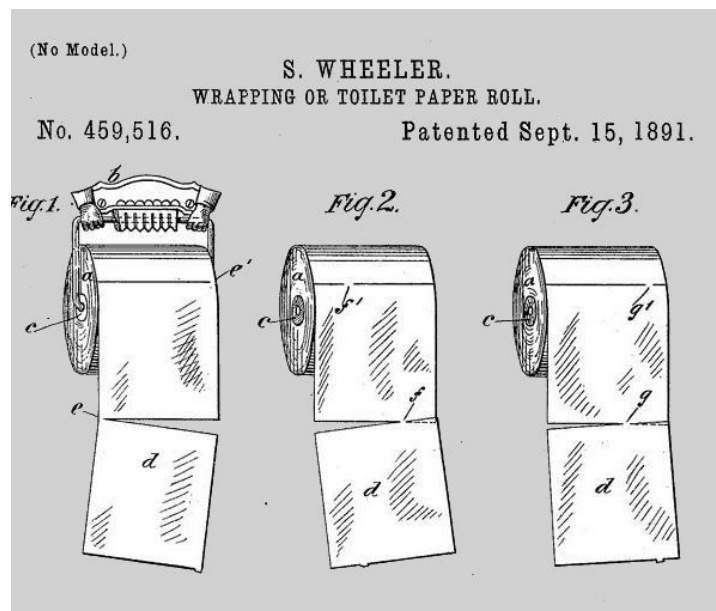
6% (47 per decade) of Academy boys used their mastery of Latin to become **physicians and surgeons**. Thomas Hun (1817) was Albany's most esteemed physician and the father and grandfather of the two Henry Huns. He entered Union College as a junior at the age of sixteen and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1826. He took his M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania, the oldest of American medical schools. He was a founder of Albany Hospital and longtime Dean of Albany Medical College. He served the Academy's board for 44 years and was president from 1886 to 1896. Charles K. Winne (1850) studied at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and Harvard Medical School. He was surgeon-in-chief, U. S. Army, Second Division, during the Civil War. He was brevetted for meritorious and distinguished services and awarded the Congressional Bronze Medal.

6% (47 per decade) of first century alumni pursued **careers in the Armed Forces**. But counting all service terms, 17% (134 per decade) joined the Army or Navy. Nine fought in the Mexican-American War, 184 in the Civil War, 33 in the Spanish-American War, and 302 in World War I. Twelve reached the rank of general, five, admiral, and seven were captains in the merchant marine. Charles Dwight Sigsbee (1858) was Captain of the U. S. S *Maine*, blown up in Havana Harbor. From the Academy, he went to the U. S. Naval Academy, becoming an engineer, oceanographer, and hydrographer. He developed the Sigsbee deep-sea sounding device and wrote the standard manual on sounding and dredging technology. Sigsbee served in the Civil and Spanish-American Wars. He rose to Rear Admiral and was Chief of Naval Intelligence.

Careers in **law and government** occupied 12% (95 per decade) of Academy alumni. One became a Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, ten went to Congress (Adams, Bouck, Corning, Hill, Pruyn, Quinn, Ten Eyck, Tracey, Van Rensselaer, Waldron), two to the Senate (George Henry Williams, James McDougal). 56 served in the federal executive branch. 117 served at state levels, including two governors (John Schuyler Crosby, Montana, and Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Puerto Rico and the Philippines). Eight were mayors of Albany and other cities. George Henry Williams (1833), for instance, read law after the Academy. He practiced in Iowa, publishing a newspaper on the side, and was appointed Chief Justice of Oregon Territory by President Pierce. He was U. S. Senator from Oregon, U. S. Attorney General under Grant, and Mayor of Portland. Rufus Wheeler Peckham, Jr. (1846) went on to Union, Yale, and

Columbia, was Albany County District Attorney, a Justice of the New York Supreme Court, and Judge in the New York Court of Appeals. He was nominated by President Grover Cleveland to be Justice, U. S. Supreme Court and remains the last such Justice nominated by a Democratic President when the Senate had a Republican majority.¹

The largest proportion of Academy alumni, 35% (276 per decade), went into **business**, from clerks to presidents. In the age of expansion and industrialization many were entrepreneurs. William Alvord, Jr. (1839) was one of three brothers who were California pioneer merchants. He was a developer of mines and railroads, president of many corporations including the Bank of California, Mayor of San Francisco, and a patron of the arts and sciences and a trustee, College of California (Berkeley). Seth Wheeler (1851), stayed in Albany where he patented sundry inventions and led the A. P. W. Paper Co., the world's first maker of rolled perforated toilet paper.



Let me just mention one of the three boys of President Van Buren.² John, the public favorite, had a successful law practice, was an eloquent leader of the Free Soil wing of the national Democratic Party, and served as Attorney General of New York State. He had a prodigious memory, sharp wit, and moved easily in diplomatic circles. He knew the kings and queens of Europe, and after dancing with Queen Victoria was known as "Prince John." On the other hand, as Attorney General, he had to prosecute some very unpopular cases and he and the defense lawyer were briefly jailed for contempt after a vociferous dispute in court. John Van Buren was a heavy drinker and inveterate poker player and is rumored to have lost to one George Parish in a single game in

¹ Wikipedia

² Abraham, John, and Martin Van Buren, Jr. All were Academy boys.

upstate New York \$5,000,³ one of his real estate properties, and his mistress, Ameriga Vespucci. John is buried in Albany Rural Cemetery, thus in a sense is still with us in Albany.

As Dostoevsky wrote in *Brothers Karamazov*: Especially when we are pre-occupied with important matters of the day, "if we attain to honor or fall into great misfortune, still let us remember how good it once was here, when we were all together, united by a good and a kind feeling which made us ... perhaps better than we are."

Thank you my kind and generous friends.

John McClintock

Alumni Association of The Albany Academy			
Year	Distinguished Alumnus	Class	Living
1962	Westcott Burlingame	1904	No
1962	Henry Hand Hun, M.D.	1910	No
1962	Frank Angelo McNamee, Jr.	1911	No
1962	Gilbert Milligan Tucker, Jr.	1898	No
1963	Douglas Worth Olcott	1920	No
1964	John Powell Hawn	1944	Yes
1964	John Kimberly Meneely, Jr.	1934	No
1970	David Sterling Williams	1935	No
1972	Charles McNeil Liddle III	1948	Yes
1972	Joseph Henry Mann, Jr.	1941	No
1974	Harold Artemus Peck, Jr.	1942	No
1974	John Gridley Underhill	1940	No
1976	Matthew Bender IV	1949	Yes
1976	Richard Arthur Hunsdorfer, Sr.	1940	No
1976	Andrew Atkin Rooney	1938	No
1978	John Hall Blackburn	1921	No
1978	Edwin Harvey Herzog	1917	No
1981	Austin Ackroyd Woodward	1943	Yes
1982	Robert Olcott II	1944	No
1983	George Woolverton Stedman, Jr.	1918	No
1983	Charles Cole Wing	1922	No
1985	Truman David Cameron	1913	No
1985	William Starr McEwan	1930	No
1985	Harry Post Meislahn	1956	Yes
1988	Rufus Rosendale Hessberg, Jr., M. D.	1939	No

³ Evans Mills, Jefferson County, \$140,000 today; Ameriga remained with Parish in Ogdensburg 18 years.

1988	Earl Wayne Wilkins, M. D., Jr.	1937	Yes
1989	John Spencer Standish	1942	No
1991	Ernest David Steck (Honorary Alumnus Award)	1977	Yes
1992	Judge Martin Schenck	1930	No
1993	Stephen Viele Lewis II	1939	Yes
1993	Richard Graham Robison	1948	No
1994	Richard Arthur Anderson, Ph. D	1944	Yes
1994	William Howard Swire	1944	Yes
1995	Dr. John Henry Carter	1942	No
1995	Hon. Jacob Hawley Herzog	1928	No
1996	Charles Reid Callanan	1943	Yes
1997	Raymond Jay [Mayo, Jr.] Castellani	1952	Yes
1998	Henry Finch Slingerland	1934	No
1999	John Cameron Brown, Jr.	1942	No
2000	Carl Edward Touhey	1935	No
2001	Bernard Fitzpatrick Conners	1945	Yes
2002	E. Stewart Jones, Jr.	1959	Yes
2003	James Farnam Caird	1952	Yes
2004	John (Jack) Holcombe Dodge	1927	No
2004	William Henry Moore Vanneman	1927	No
2005	Earle Wayne Harbinger	1955	Yes
2006	Clyde Woodrow Rea, Jr.	1966	Yes
2007	William Burgess Picotte	1967	Yes
2008	Peter Louis Dorwaldt	1958	No
2009	Richard Powell Wallace	1959	No
2010	Martin Elias Peter Seligman, Ph. D.	1960	Yes
2010	Jeffrey James Sharlet	1960	No
2011	Andrew Fisher IV	1961	Yes
2012	Robert Samuel DeCosta Higgins II, M. D.	1977	Yes
2013	Douglas McKay North, Ph. D.	1958	Yes
2014	Stephen Christopher Meigher	1964	Yes
2015	Henry James Tipper Sears	1955	Yes
2016	Peter Gansevoort Ten Eyck II	1956	Yes
2017	John Thomas McClintock II	1957	Yes