

Vernon Marion Babbitt

Born: September 3, 1842

Died: December 15, 1906 (64 yrs., 3 mos., 12 days)

Buried in the Pawnee City, Nebraska cemetery

Matriculated: 1858

Hometown: Ward, NY

Major: Scientific Course

Member: Alleghanian Lyceum

Attended: 1858/59, 1868/69, 1869/70, 1870/71

Graduated: July 5, 1871 with an A.M degree (advanced)

Graduation oration title: "Self Culture"

Later occupation: Merchant in Pawnee City, Nebraska (1876)

Civil War information: Company H, 1st NY Dragoons, 19th regiment, General Merritt's Division, he was a sergeant

- He was 28 and 29 years old at the time of the 1871 diary.
- In the winter it took him about 2 1/2 hours to walk home from the University. [Estimated about 7.5 miles.]
- His diploma is in Special Collections, Herrick Library, Alfred University.
- He did marry Sabra Rogers (at least if we can trust the 1917 Alfred University Alumni Directory)
- Attends church on Sundays
- Oak Hill and Fenner Hill are around his house; Fenner Hill may be around Cornelius and Sprague Rds.
- He mentions Squintville, which is Phillips Creek

David H. Babbitt (Vernon's father) - moved to Ward from Ontario County in Dec. 1835. He had previously bought 50 acres of land, on which he lived up to the time of his death, in 1878, at age 69. In 1857, he was a justice of the peace. [1879 History of Allegany County.]

Merrick P. Babbitt (Vernon's older brother) - Born July 15, 1839. Married Elizabeth Brodie, Dec.25, 1861. [I think Vernon refers to her as "Lib" or else he has a sister named Lib.] Matriculated at A.U. in 1859. Information from the 1879 History of Allegany County: farmer and proprietor of the "Babbitt Cheese Factory" which he built in 1873 on his father's farm. He learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, and worked in that business to some extent. He filled the office of assessor; has served as justice of the peace for four years and had been re-elected. He was a class-leader in the Ward Methodist Episcopal Church. Was justice of the peace in 1895.

According to the Registrar's Ledger, Merrick attended Term II, Nov. 30, 1859-Mar.7,1860; Term III, March-June 1860; and Term II, Nov.28, 1860-March 7, 1861.

Babbitt Cheese Factory - Built in 1873. Located on the farm of D.H. Babbitt and under the management of Merrick Babbitt. Owing to its location its patronage is not extensive but its products are ranked first class, and are bought to a considerable extent in neighboring villages for the home trade. [From the 1879 History of Allegany County, NY.]

Sabra Eliza Rogers - Attended A.U. at least in the beginning of 1871 (Academician). Did not graduate from A.U. Her father may be either O. Rogers or R. Rogers. Her address (as written by her in Vernon's diary was Scio, NY). She may have a brother named Rubin and a sister named Verenus. Her college roommate was Jane. Mary Clark is a friend of hers.

According to the Registrar's Ledger, Sabra attended A.U in the Fall term 1867 as a preparatory student. She was 17 years old and her home town was Ward, NY. She appeared again in the Fall term 1869 under the Provisional normals and preparatory students, 19 years old, and took D. Arith, A.Geog., and C. Gram. In the Winter term 1869/70 she was again in the Provisional normals and preparatory student list, 19 years old, Scio, NY, and took D. Gram., and E. Arith. She was listed as a Normal student in the Winter term 1870/71, 21 years old, Ward, NY, and took D. Nom? Vol?, B. Liog?, and E. Arith. Sabra took Regents examinations in the Winter term 1870/71. Arithmetic (18), Geography (20), Grammar (20), and Spelling (95). I think that the 18 and 20 refer to the number of questions answered and that 20 might be the most they could get/do.

In the 1917 Alumni Directory, she is listed as: Rogers, Sabra (Babbitt) - Pawnee City, Neb., with a notation that her address had proven insufficient

Ward, NY - [From the 1895 History of Allegany County, NY.] Formed from Alfred and Amity in November 1856. Includes Phillips Creek. Its chief product was the manufacture of cheese (also produced much butter, oats, buckwheat, barley, and potatoes). In 1861, over half of the males age 18-40 left for the Civil War. Over 1/3 of them died during the war. There were no millionaires within her boundaries but paupers were just as scarce. The Schools were flourishing and well filled, people generally attended some place of worship, all could read and write, and the people were generally prosperous and happy.

Churches in Ward: Phillips Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Phillips Creek Universalist Church
Wesleyan Methodist Church

Alfred Centre, NY - By vote of the people, it changed its name to Alfred in 1895.

Alfred University (according to the 1869/71 catalog)

Seniors in 1871 - Mary F. Bailey, Mary Ellen Setchell, Adelia Maxson Sherman, Mary Charlotte Simpson, Sarah Elizabeth Whitney, Vernon Marion Babbitt, Isaac Collins Millard

Names in the 1869/71 catalog that may line up with people Vernon mentions:

George Saunders Montrose Cottrell (Richburg, Teachers Course and in the Alleghanian Lyceum)
Jane Colegrove Williams (Alfred)

Uri Washington Merriam (Ward; Provisional academicians)
Jane Eliza Riley (Birdsall; Provisional academicians)
Jane Saunders (Alfred; Provisional academicians)
Jane Loella Wright (Scio; Provisional academicians)

[Names in the 1872/73 Catalog that may line up with people Vernon mentions:]

Uri Marten Babcock (Humboldt, Nebraska - which is right next door to Pawnee City)
Albert Walter Cottrell (Whitesville)
Bourdon Maxson Cottrell (Alfred)

Number of Collegians in 1869/71 catalog- Gentlemen 51, Ladies 48, Total of 99

From 1869/71 catalog: Regular Academic Exercises - The regular exercises at which all the students will be required to attend, unless especially excused, are chapel exercises each day during the term; recitations from two to four, five days each week, from Monday morning till Friday evening; regular exercises in compositions, declamation, spelling, reading, and writing; literary, scientific, and moral lectures, by the faculty; public worship, each week, either on Saturday or Sunday, and Bible class, according as the students may be in the habit of attending public worship, either on the seventh or the first day of the week

Rooms and Board - The University Hall [Brick] contains the Boarding Department, and rooms for professors and their families, and also Society, Music, and Paint Rooms. Rooms for Ladies are furnished and carpeted, with a sleeping room adjoining each. The Hall is under immediate supervision of the Faculty. There is also abundant accommodation for rooming and boarding in private families.

Expenses per term? or year? -

Tuition and Incidentals in Primary Dept. and Preparatory.....	\$5.00
" " in Grammar and Provisional Academic.....	7.00
" " in Higher Departments.....	10.00
Board	\$30.00 to 40.00
Room	\$3.00 to 6.00
Fuel	\$3.00 to 6.00
Washing	\$2.00 to 3.00

Parents and guardians are earnestly solicited not to furnish money to be squandered on useless and frivolous things, nor permit their children or wards to contract debts for the same, thus laying the foundation of extravagant and reckless habit.

Calendar for 1871-1872

The Fall term will begin Wednesday, September 6, 1871

The Winter term will begin Wednesday, December 13, 1871

The Spring term will begin Wednesday, April 4, 1872

The Terms will continue thirteen weeks each

Commencement, July 4, 1872

Anniversary of the Literary Societies on the preceding days of the same week

The Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association, on the afternoon and evening of Anniv. Day
The Annual Meetings of the Stockholders and Trustees, on the Tues. preceeding Anniversary
General examination of classes is held the last week of each term

Miscellaneous Information - Location - The Institution is located at Alfred, Allegany Co. NY two miles from Alfred Depot on the line of the Erie Railway. The location is retired and healthy in a rural district, surrounded by delightful scenery, amid a people of integrity, and of industrious and unobtrusive habits. Students are not exposed here to many of the allurements to vice and dissipation. Few spots are so well adapted to the quiet and successful pursuit of Science and Literature as the village of Alfred. *Government* - Parents who place their children in this institution, and all students who are sufficiently old to understand the necessity of order, cannot be too well assured that the following regulations form the most essential part of the contract between them and us; and that whatever student wantonly violates them, and shows himself incorrigibly determined on pursuing his waywardness, will be expelled from the privileges of the Institution.

Summary of Regulations -

Requisitions

1. Registry of name, and satisfactory arrangements with regards to room and board
2. Payment or security of bills in advance
3. Punctuality in attending all regular academic exercises, and faithful observance of study hours
4. Faithful observance of temporary prudential rules.
5. Faithful observance of one's Sabbath
6. Information, if asked, concerning delinquencies or misconduct of others
7. Free access of any teacher to the rooms of students
8. Habits of good order and propriety at all times and places

Prohibitions

1. Unpermitted association of ladies and gentlemen
2. Visiting at improper times or places
3. The use of tobacco and intoxicating drinks
4. Games of chance, profane or obscene language
5. Changing or dropping a study without permission
6. Leaving school or village without permission
7. Absence from examination
8. All disorder and impropriety of conduct

1871 Board of Trustees (Executive Board)

Hon. Benjamin F. Langworthy, Pres.

Rev. Nathan V. Hull, Vice Pres.

Elisha Potter, Treasurer

Silas C. Burdick, Recording Secretary [He owned the general store on Main St. where Vernon bought the diary. It was on the spot of Prexy's Pool, now a lawn next to Carnegie Hall.]

Rev. Jonathan Allen, Corresponding Secretary

1871 Faculty

Rev. Jonathan Allen, President - Metaphysics and Ethics
Charlotte E. Dawse, Preceptress - Grammar Department
Rev. Nathan V. Hull - Pastoral Theology
Rev. Thomas R. Williams - Biblical Theology
Rev. Ethan P. Larkin - Natural History
Ida F. Kenyon - German and French language and literature
Edward M. Tomlinson - Latin and Greek language and literature
Prosper Miller - Natural Sciences
Albert Whitford - Mathematics
Rev. A. Herbert Lewis - Church History
Rev. Lucius Romain Swinney - Hebrew and Cognate languages
Abigail A. Allen - Painting and Drawing
Amelia E. Stillman - Painting and Drawing
Minerva F. Simpson - Music, Vocal and Instrumental
Helen M. Crandall - Music, Vocal and Instrumental
Gurdon Evans - Union School Department
Mary J. Lanphear - Union School Department
Frank M. Van Allen - Union School Department
Mark Sheppard - Bookkeeping and Penmanship
Signoria E. Saythe - Gymnastics
Charles E. Moore - Industrial Mechanics

Philosophical or Scientific Course of Study (Most likely elocution and rhetoric where required classes in addition to the following - at least during Vernon's diary year)

Freshmen Year -	1st term - Algebra; French; Natural Philosophy 2nd term - Plane Geometry; French; Physical Geography 3rd term - Solid Geometry and Plane Trigonometry; French, Picciola or Corinne; Botany
Sophomore -	1st term - Ancient or Modern Language or Spherical Geometry and Conic Sections; German; French, Racine 2nd term - Astronomy; German; French, Louis XVI 3rd term - Ancient or Modern Language or Survey and Navigation; Universal History
Junior -	1st term - Chemistry; History and Constitution of the United States; Rhetoric 2nd term - German, Wilhem Tell or Jan frau von Orleans; Zoology; Physiology 3rd term - Analytical Geometry or one of Languages; German; Geology
Senior -	1st term - Logic; Psychology; Elocution; Ancient or Modern Language or Differential or Integral Calculus 2nd term - Ethics; Logic; Law 3rd term - Esthetics; Theology; History and Philosophy of Civilization

*Commencement Bulletin, 1871 - (name of their oration piece, graduate name, and hometown)
Wednesday, July 5, 1871 (35th Anniversary)*

1. "The Soul" - George Saunders Montrose Cottrell - Richburgh
2. "Light" - Mary Emma Darrow - Waterford, Conn.
3. "Drifting" - Ella E. Eaton - Alfred
4. "Speech" - Frank Llewellyn Green - Alfred
5. "Peter the Great" - John William Maxwell - Lyndon
6. "Daughters" - Anna Eliza Nelson - East Otto
7. "Diagnosis" - Signoria E. Smythe - Hallsport
8. "Labor" - Levi Charles VanFleet - New Hudson
9. "Self-Culture" - Vernon Marion Babbitt - Ward
10. "Courage" - Mary Ellen Setchell - Cuba
11. "What and Why" - Adelia Maxson Sherman - Alfred
12. "Arcadia" - Mary Charlotte Simpson - Sartwell, Pa
13. "It is Finished" - Sara Elizabeth Whitney - Ossian

Information on Vernon from the Registrar's Ledger:

Term I - Aug. 18 - Nov.24, 1858: did not attend

Term II - Late Nov. - ?: Conduct (60); Attendance (60); C. Gram. (60), A. Alg? (60), Geog. (53), C. Arith. (60)

Term III - n.d. : Conduct (60); Attendance (59); B. Alg (60), D. Arith (60), D. Gram (54), Average 58.

Term I - Aug.17-Nov.23, 1859: did not attend

Term I - Aug.15-Nov.21, 1860: 19 yrs old; Phys. (59), C. Alg

Winter Term 1867: Academician; 25 yrs. old; Cea (7), Geom. (84)

Passed Regents Examinations during Winter Term 1866/67: Arithmetic (no. of questions answered was 20)

Passed Regents Examinations during Winter 1868: 25 yrs. old; Arithmetic (20), Grammar (22), Geography (20), Spelling (75)

Fall Term 1868: Collegian; 26 yrs. old; Trig (8.6), Caesar (8.5), Chem., (8.6)

Winter Term 1868/69: Collegian; 26 yrs. old; Math, Astron. (8.9), A. Germ. (8.9), Cic. (8.5)

Spring Term 1869: 26 yrs. old; B. German (9), Surveying (8.8), Sallust (9)

Winter Term 1869/70: 27 yrs. old; C. German (8.8), Phys. Geog. (9), Des. Astron. (8.6)

Spring Term 1870: Collegian; 27 yrs. old; Herman & Dorothea (8.4), Geology (9)

Winter Term 1870/71: Collegian; 28 yrs. old; Zool. (9), Wm. Tell (8.8), Analyt. Geom. (8.5)

Spring Term 1871: Collegian; 28 yrs. old; Botany (8.8)

Information from:

University catalogs

Alumni catalog - 1917

Vernon's funeral card

Diary

1869 maps of Ward and Alfred

1879 History of Allegany County

1895 History of Allegany County