

**A MEMORIAL OF BREVET BRIGADIER
GENERAL LEWIS BENEDICT,
COLONEL OF 162D REGIMENT
N.Y.V.I., WHO FELL IN BATTLE AT
PLEASANT HILL, LA., APRIL 9, 1864**

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A Memorial of Brevet Brigadier General Lewis Benedict, Colonel of 162d Regiment N.Y.V.I.,
Who Fell in Battle at Pleasant Hill, L.A., April 9, 1864 by Henry Marvin Benedict

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HENRY MARVIN BENEDICT

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OF

BREVET BRIGADIER GENERAL

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LEWIS BENEDICT,

COLONEL OF 162D REGIMENT N. Y. V. I.,

WHO

FELL IN BATTLE AT PLEASANT HILL, LA.,

APRIL 9, 1864.

Henry M. Benedict



ALBANY, N. Y.:

J. MUNSELL, 82 STATE STREET.

1866.

12/29/2

“κόσμος οὐδέν' ἀνδρ' ἐκὼν
αἶψα κενεῖται, ἀλλὰ τοὺς χρηστέους αἶσι.”

“THEY PERISH NOT WHO DIE IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE,
THOUGH FROM THE MYSTIC OR ENFANGUINED FIELD,
THEY PASS AWAY TO JOIN THE GLORIOUS DEAD,
THEY LIVE AGAIN IN ALL THEIR MIGHTY DEEDS,
THEIR GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS MAKE THE NOTABLE
EVENTS OF TIME, AND GIVE DEVELOPMENT
TO ALL THE TRUER LIFE OF MAN ON EARTH.
THEY ARE THE GLORY OF ALL HISTORY:
THE EVER-DURING MONUMENTS ON WHICH
MANKIND ENGRAVE THEIR LASTING GRATITUDE.
THESE ONLY ARE IMMORTAL IN RENOWN,
WHO DIE IN FREEDOM'S HOLY CAUSE.”

MEMOIR.

Colonel LEWIS BENEDICT,¹ the subject of this sketch, son of Lewis and Susan (Stafford) Benedict, was born in Albany, New York, September 2, 1817.

His early studies were prosecuted at Aurora, Cayuga County, New York; but his preparation for College was made, mainly, at the Albany Academy.

In 1834, he entered the Sophomore class of Williams College, and was graduated in 1837.

Thence he went into the office of the late John C. Spencer, in Canandaigua, and read Law.

In January, 1841, he was licensed, in Albany, as Attorney at Law; and, subsequently, was admitted as Counsellor in the State and Federal Courts.

In 1845, he was appointed City Attorney; and was re-appointed for a second term.

In 1847, he was appointed Judge Advocate General, on the staff of Governor John Young.

In 1848, he was elected Surrogate of the city and

¹Afterwards Brevet Brigadier General.

county of Albany, for the term of four years,—his entire vote greatly exceeding the strength of his party.

In 1849, he received the appointment of Judge Advocate General, from Governor Hamilton Fish.

In 1852, and also in 1860, he was the candidate of the Whig party for the Recordership of the city, and shared the defeat of its nominees.

In 1854, he was appointed, by the Comptroller, one of a Board, consisting of three Commissioners, charged to ascertain and report concerning the pecuniary and other conditions of the several State Prisons; and, also, to devise laws for their better regulation and discipline. The results of the labors of this Commission are contained in a voluminous Report made to the Assembly in 1855.

In the fall of the year 1860, he was nominated by the Union men of his district for Member of Assembly, and elected; being the only Union candidate returned from the county at that time. This was the last public position, of a civil character, held by him.

Both the beginning and the end of his life develop the same characteristics,—great fondness for ease and recreative enjoyments, yet with ready power to subordinate such tastes, or repress them altogether, in obedience to the claims of any serious engagement.

As a boy, he was noted for his zeal and diligence in study, and not less for enterprise in play. The records of the Albany Academy attest his successes in competitive examinations; and it is well remembered, by many who shared in them, how, after sweeping the prizes of scholarship, he would resort to the playground, and exhibit equal superiority in those games and contests, which are alike the peril and delight of robust and ambitious boyhood.

His collegiate career resembled his academic,—it was successful to whatever degree he chose to make it. A classmate, now President of a College, describing him, says: "It is doing injustice to none of his classmates to say, that, in mind as in person, he had no superior among them all. His rank, as a scholar, was high; and he could have made it higher. His mind was quick and clear, and he learned with great facility. His critical power was unusual, and no one could detect the weak points of an argument, or the incorrect use of terms, sooner than he." He graduated with distinction, and, three years afterwards, was appointed to deliver the Master's Oration.

While a student of the Law, he maintained sufficient ardor of pursuit to enable him to acquire a knowledge of the elements of that science; but his taste for general literature was decided enough to save him from engrossment by studies purely professional. The un-

common facility with which he acquired knowledge, — the result of his quick perceptions and retentive memory, afforded him intervals to indulge this taste without neglecting his studies proper; and he therefore read much beside Law, and digested well what he did read. His habits of critical investigation, of collation and analysis, are indicated by marginal annotations and references contained in his books, and manifestly written as he read. Indices Rerum, Diaries and Memoranda remain, that show his reading to have been varied, extensive, and always careful. They reveal an acquaintance with authors and topics, and also preferences and prejudices in respect to both, that indicate clearly the knowledge he most prized, and in which he was farthest advanced. They exhibit a degree of intellectual power and acquirement, and such peculiar mental habitudes, as might have justified him in adopting Literature as a profession. It is, perhaps, well to say that not the slightest expression of fondness for the one chosen for him is recorded, in any form, anywhere; and, later in life, he did not scruple to say that it never was his choice.

At this time, the very atmosphere he breathed was charged with informing and refining influences. The intelligence, culture and social elegance that surprised and delighted De Tocqueville, and made Canandaigua, in his sight, the loveliest of American villages, were