Native American Students at Dartmouth - 1850s
Physical Appearances

Total of 3 Indigenous Dartmouth Alumni from the 1850s
A. Joseph Folsom 1854 Choctaw
B. DeWitt Clinton Duncan 1861 Cherokee
C. Albert Barnes 1861 Cherokee

Folsom
Choctaw Chief 1800s
Cherokees 1800s
Barnes
Duncan
Albert Barnes

- Only available documents were the portrait and this letter

- The letter is a record request from the U.S. Dept. of Interior's Office of Indian Affairs for Barnes' file
DeWitt Clinton Duncan

- Many documents - well liked and revered

DEWITT DUNCAN—CHEROKEE

My dear Sir:

Your article in the December number of the Alumni Magazine was of much interest to me. You may be aware of the information I am offering, but no mention of it was made in your article of the Indians of the class of '01. My father, John Worthington Hopkins Baker, was a member of that class. I think my father told me there were several of them, but one of whom he was very fond and who, he said, was the most popular member of the class was DeWitt Duncan, a quarter-bred Cherokee Indian. After graduating he returned to his people, I believe, somewhere in Iowa. I do not know whether he studied law or not, but I think he attended to the legal work of his people. When I came to Iowa nine years ago I wished very much to meet him. However, Maj. Redington wrote that he had been dead about ten years. Maj. Redington was one of the two surviving members of that class and has been, and still is, the Secretary. He lives at 519 Lake St., Evanston, III. He would be glad, I know, to give you all the information he has concerning Duncan and the other Indian members of the class.

Ten years ago when we broke up our home I sent the pictures of the class of '01 to somebody at the college, thinking that at some time they might prove of interest. Pres. Tucker was a member of the class. I hope they are still in existence. I would have been very glad to keep them, if I could.

S. MAY BAKER

611 So. Madison St., Iowa City, Ia.

1/4 Indian

TWO INDIANS

Editor of the Alumni Magazine:

A few weeks ago I mentioned the apparent omission of occasional names in a catalogue of the students of Indian blood who had attended Dartmouth College, citing especially DeWitt Clinton Duncan of the class of 1861, whom I had understood to be a full-blood Cherokee. Since that time I have had a letter from one of the survivors of that class, Major R. E. Redington, which indicates that Duncan was only one-quarter of Indian strain, although he hailed from the Indian Territory, as it was then called.

Major Redington adds interesting details of Duncan's career. He recalls him as being "as fine a specimen of a man, physically, mentally and morally, as I have ever known in a prolonged life. In a crowd of students he was always 'princeps inter principes.' He came to college with less than the usually required preparation and was the oldest member of '01 graduating at the age of 38. He easily ranked among the first ten students in a class of 50 members. After graduation he became a teacher, studying law in his spare time in Wisconsin and Iowa. He was married in Charles City, Ia., to (I think) an Anglo-Saxon wife. He became mayor of Charles City, and as I recall the facts, owing to some controversy between the Government and the Indians concerning their treatment, he spent much of his time in the defense of their tribal rights both in the courts and through the press."

Duncan died in 1899 in Visalia, Okla. Evidently I had seen him later than Major Redington (who last saw his classmate in the years when the major was living in Kansas) because I distinctly remember his visiting my father—also his classmate—and staying at our house, or an incident in making an address on women done the Indians, which he delivered in one of our local churches. I remember him as a fine figure of a man, not so dark of skin as most Indians and yet with the Indian type of face, whose outstanding peculiarity of dress was that he resolutely refused to wear any necktie, even on formal occasions. Major Redington calls attention in his letter also to another member of '01 as being of Indian blood—Albert Barnes, who in the General Catalogue is stated to have been in the Chandler Scientific school, but as to whose subsequent career little or nothing seems to be known. Major Redington recalls him as of darker skin than Duncan.

PHILIP S. MARDEN, '84
Lowell Courier-Commons, Lowell, Mass.
Joseph Folsom

Wrote an autobiography of his life up until 1853

English Education

Language Assimilation