

SIBLEY'S HARVARD GRADUATES

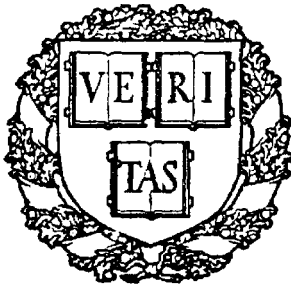
VOLUME XV · 1761-1763

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF
THOSE WHO ATTENDED
HARVARD COLLEGE

IN THE CLASSES 1761-1763

WITH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER NOTES

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WILLIAM SOUTHMAYD

WILLIAM SOUTHMAYD, a lawyer of Plymouth, Connecticut, was born in Waterbury on June 27, 1740, a grandson of the Reverend John Southmayd (A.B. 1697) and a son of John and Milicent (Gaylord) Southmayd. After his father's death his mother married Timothy Judd (Yale 1737). William was graduated at Yale in 1761, and when he took his M.A. he argued the affirmative of "An Omnes Antichristi Notæ Convenient Papæ?" He studied theology with the Reverend Samuel Todd (Yale 1734) of Northbury, then a parish of Waterbury, now the town of Plymouth, and was licensed to preach by the New Haven Association on May 31, 1763.

On October 16, 1763, Southmayd married Parson Todd's daughter Irene. They made their home in Northbury Parish while the young husband searched in vain for a suitable pulpit. In 1768 he asked the New Haven Association to renew his license to preach, and was told to apply to an Association in which he was better known. That same year he appeared at the Cambridge Commencement, showed evidence of his Yale M.A., and asked "to be admitted ad eundem in Harvard College." His wish was granted, and he was enrolled at the foot of the Harvard Class of 1761.

Southmayd served the town of Waterbury in such minor capacities as surveyor of the highways, and eventually went into the practice of the law without spectacular success, for it was his cow rather than he who was noticed by the Boston press.¹ With modesty unusual in a lawyer, he joined a Northbury military company as a private in 1776, and marched to Fort Schuyler. He served again in the campaign of 1777, now a sergeant, and he was with the army at Lake Champlain when he died of small pox on July 31, 1778.² His widow married Eliphaz Wells of Northfield on November 10, 1779. His children had no Harvard connection.³

¹ *Massachusetts Gazette, extra*, Mar. 11, 1773, 1/2.

² Joseph Anderson, *The Town and City of Waterbury* (New Haven, 1896), I, 466.

³ For the children see John Edwards Todd, *The Todd Family in America* (Northampton, 1920), p. 84.