

# GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Silliman, Benjamin, Sr.

1779 - 1864

DEGREE: AB (law)

DATE: 1796

PLACE: Yale

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Woodhouse/Hope

taught chemistry, pharmacy, geology, and mineralogy; discovered the fusion of carbon by electric arcs; performed first chemical analysis of petroleum; founded *Am. J. Sci.* in 1818, the oldest scientific journal in America; co-founded the AAAS; "the most eminent of American teachers of natural science".

FOOTNOTE: After graduating from Yale in 1796, Silliman took up the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in 1802. The president of Yale, however, persuaded Silliman to devote himself to chemistry, and Silliman spent two winters (1802-3, 1803-4) in Philadelphia as a student of Woodhouse. In 1805, Silliman traveled to Europe to complete his education and especially benefited from the lectures of Hope at Edinburgh.

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