

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

©Vera V. Mainz and Gregory S. Girolami 1998

Silliman, Benjamin, Jr.

1816 - 1885

DEGREE: MA

DATE: 1840

PLACE: Yale

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Silliman, Sr.

one of the fifty original members of the National Academy of Sciences, incorporated by act of Congress in 1863; helped found what became the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale - which granted the first Doctor of Philosophy degree in the US (1863); well-known as a teacher and author of textbooks; investigated mineralogy, petroleum, coal, precious metals, and the combustion of gases for illumination; wrote a report in 1855 that launched the world's petroleum industry by reporting his methods and results of a chemical analysis of rock oil from Pennsylvania, and recommending uses of the several hydrocarbons obtained from petroleum (kerosene, gasoline, and paraffin).

1. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 12, p434-437.
2. *Biog. Mem. Nat. Acad. Sci.* **1913**, 7, 115-141.
3. *Dictionary of American Biography*; Malone, D., Ed.; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1936; vol. 17, p163-164.
4. *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*; James T. White & Co.: 1921-1984; vol. 2, p386-387.
5. *Am. J. Sci.* **1885**, 29, 85-92.
6. *American Chemists and Chemical Engineers*; Miles, W. D., Ed.; American Chemical Society: 1976; p438-440.