DIED--At Waterford on Wednesday afternoon, June 1, Hon. John Cramer in the 92nd year of his age.
His relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral on Friday afternoon at 2½ o'clock from his late residence, Waterford, without further invitation.

The Late John Cramer---The funeral of the late Hon. John Cramer of Waterford is taking place from his residence in that village this p. m. One thing in connection with Mr. Cramer's history ought to be mentioned. Notwithstanding the fact that he was a most uncompromising and somewhat illiberal Democrat, and had been a member of the Hunker wing of the party, when the South made war upon the government, much as he disliked Mr. Lincoln and hated the Republican party, he came out boldly defiantly in support of the war. His loyalty was unquestioned. He presided at the first war meeting held in Waterford and made an earnest speech in defense of the government. On one occasion he told a Copperhead neighbor that if he were President of the United States he would hang him for his treasonable sentiments.

Mr. Cramer's greatest political triumph was won at the time of his first election to Congress. John W. Taylor had represented the Saratoga district for 18 years. He had been Speaker of the House of Representatives and was a man of great prominence not only in the State but in the nation. Mr. Cramer was nominated against him, and after a contest of uncommon bitterness was elected by a large majority. The combinations which he effected to produce the result showed a skill in wielding men and a political sagacity of the very highest order. Mr. Taylor was so humiliated that he removed from the district and was never heard of again in political life.

Troy Daily Times
June 3, 1870.
We first knew Mr. Cramer in the "Barnburner" and "Hunker" times of 1847-8. He was then quite an old man, but full of fire and resolution, firm as adamant, and meeting his Barnburner adversaries in a spirit of defiance. John Cramer and John Striker, with great will power and diplomatic ability, aided by Croswell's tact and cunning, succeeded in gaining possession of the Democratic State convention in Syracuse in 1847, beating John Van Buren and the Barnburners, throwing overboard Azariah C. Flagg and others of the old Democratic guard who had espoused the cause of free soil, and nominating new men of the straightest Hunker seat for the State offices. These were exciting times in the political history of the State; the Barnburners bolted and held a free speech convention at Herkimer, where John Van Buren made a formal declaration of war against Hunkerism, and proclaimed as the watchword of the Barnburners party "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Men." Here we may say was the first effective beginning of the movement against the extension of slavery; then followed next year (1848) the nomination of Martin Van Buren for the Presidency against the regular Democratic nominee, Lewis Cass, the result of which was the election of General Taylor, the Whig candidate to the Presidency. And thus was set in motion the ball which, rolling on, led to issues that culminated in the Southern rebellion of 1861 and closed in the triumph of Emancipation and the Union. Through all these years John Cramer remained steadfast in the old Democratic Hunker faith, never budging an inch from his political position, and insisting to the last that the "good old way" to which he aided in giving direction to his party in 1847 was the way of political righteousness. He was consistent, bold, defiant in his politics; what he believed in he stuck to without flinching, to the last.

Personally Mr. Cramer bore an unblemished name. If he was made of stern stuff and was somewhat harsh at times, he was exact in all his dealings with mankind. He wanted no more than his rights, and these he always stood ready to accord to others. He acquired an immense fortune and spent his later days in peace and retirement. He was largely interested in former years in several banks of Troy, and was one of the original and heaviest stockholders of the Rensselaer & Saratoga railroad; of which his son, George H. Cramer, is now President. He also assisted in establishing the Saratoga County National Bank of Waterford, and was for many years, if not at the time of his death, the President of that corporation. Besides our toemans, George H. Cramer, the deceased left a son, William E. Cramer, the editor of the Milwaukee "Wisconsin," and other children of character and position in society. Hon. John K. Porter, the distinguished lawyer, married a daughter of Mr. Cramer. His death was the result of a cold contracted a few weeks since, and which from his great age he was unable to throw off. His last real illness extended over a period of only about ten days.

Troy Daily Times
June 2, 1870.
This distinguished politician of a former generation died at his residence in the village of Waterford yesterday p.m. at the advanced age of 91 years. He was born in Saratoga County in 1779, in the midst of the Revolution, some of the stirring scenes of which were enacted in the vicinity of his early home. Mr. Cramer was a link connecting the past with the present, and at the time of his death was probably the oldest person of political notoriety in the State, if not in the country. He was a Presidential Elector in 1804 upon the elevation of Jefferson to the Presidency for the second term, and was the last survivor of the illustrious college. His history, therefore, from his advent into political life to his death, extended over a period of more than sixty years.

We have not the data for a complete biography of this illustrious man. In 1806 at the age of 27 he entered the Assembly of the State. He was subsequently elected to the Assembly in 1811, and again in 1842, after an interval of 31 years. He was a member of the State Senate in 1823-24 and 1825. His senatorial career was particularly distinguished. He was the peer of DeWitt Clinton, Gov. Marcy, Erastus Root, John A. King, Col. Young, (to whose fortunes he was warmly attached,) and other statesmen of that day whose names add lustre to the history of our State. He assisted in forming the Constitution of 1821, and upon its adoption became a member of the first Senate (1823) elected under the new government, which body for the first time since the close of the Revolution was composed of gentlemen professing to belong to the same political party. While a member of the Senate he proposed the present system of choosing Presidential Electors upon a general ticket, as an amendment to the report of a committee sustaining the former mode, and carried his proposition against the serious opposition of Silas Wright and other prominent Senators. His argument upon the question is spoken of in Hammond's political history of the State of New York, as having been of the most masterly and convincing character. It was during his career as a Senator that he also distinguished himself as an opponent of the Albany Regency, which assumed to control the Democratic party and dictate its nominations, and when to further their political schemes a resolution was presented to the Senate to remove DeWitt Clinton from the office of Canal Commissioner, Mr. Cramer was one of three Senators who had the courage to stand up and vote against the outrage. But it was forced through both houses and Mr. Clinton was removed. The people would not tolerate the wrong, and organized a movement for his nomination to the office of Governor, and successfully carried him into the gubernatorial chair. In all the political movements of the day Mr. Cramer bore a prominent part, and was regarded as one of the ablest and strongest men of his time, as well as an honest, upright and public spirited citizen,
Cramer, John
From: Saratoga, N.Y.
Last residence: Waterford, N.Y.

Records show one
John Cramer

Commencement of service: May 1, 1812
Expiration of service: May 1, 1813
John Cramer of Waterford was one of the really remarkable products of Saratoga County. He was the son of Conrad Cramer, and was born in the town of Saratoga, May 14, 1778. In 1800 he began the practice of law in Waterford, where he spent the remainder of his life. Early in his career he took an interest in politics, and as presidential elector in 1804 cast his ballot for Thomas Jefferson. He served in the State Assembly in 1806, 1811 and again in 1842. In 1821 he was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention; in 1823 represented the old fourth district in the State Senate. In 1823 he defeated John W. Taylor for Congress, though the latter was generally considered invincible, and was re-elected in 1834. In 1840 he was again a candidate, but was defeated. Up to within a few years before his death in 1870, he remained very influential in politics. He was a natural leader, and for over a half a century he exercised a controlling influence in politics.

FROM Our County and Its People (Saratoga County)
G. B. Anderson
The Boston History Co.
1899.

CRAMER, John, a Representative from New York; born in Waterford, N. Y., May 17, 1778; attended the rural schools and was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1801; studied law, was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice in Waterford, N. Y.; presidential elector on the Democratic ticket of Jefferson and Clinton in 1804; appointed a master in chancery in 1805; member of the State assembly in 1806 and 1811; served in the State senate 1823-1825; delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1821; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Congress (March 4, 1833-March 3, 1837); again a member of the State assembly in 1842; died in Waterford, Saratoga County, N. Y., June 1, 1870; interment in the Waterford Rural Cemetery.
Was born in Saratoga, May 14, 1779. His father, Conrad Cramer, was of German descent, who settled on a farm about three miles southwest of Schuyler-ville, before the revolution. During one of the raids of the Indians they were obliged to leave home, and fled in a southerly direction. Near Schuyler-ville, night overtook them, and at that place there was a small house used as for a tavern, but being already full, the Cramer family were obliged to remain in their wagon, and on that same evening the mother gave birth to John.

Young Cramer received a liberal education, and chose the profession of the law. About 1800, he opened an office in Waterford, and continued to reside in that village during the remainder of his long life. At an early age, he became an active politician; and, in 1804 was elected a presidential elector, and voted for the re-election of Thomas Jefferson. He was elected a member of the State Assembly in the years 1806, 1811 and 1814. In 1821 he was a delegate to the State convention for framing a new constitution. In 1823, he was elected to the State Senate from the fourth district, which then extended to the St. Lawrence River. In 1832 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives from this district, and in 1834 was re-elected. He served in the House with James K. Polk and other distinguished men during the last term of Jackson's administration. John Cramer was a natural leader, and exercised a most powerful influence upon the politics of the State for more than fifty years, and for a longer period than any other one man.

He was elected a trustee of the Institute in 1824, and served until 1848.

He died at his residence in Waterford, June 1, 1870, aged ninety-one years and sixteen days. He left four sons and two daughters surviving him.

Biographical Record p. 59
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Henry B. Mason, Editor
Troy. 1897
John Cramer, congressman, was born at Rexford Flats, on the Mohawk river, Saratoga Co., N. Y., Sept. 26, 1779. He was educated as a lawyer, and so long as he followed his profession had a large and lucrative practice, but early in his career he turned his attention to political matters, and in 1804 was chosen a presidential elector on the Jeffersonian ticket. Subsequently, from 1806 to 1811, he was a representative in the New York legislature, and from 1823 to 1825 a member of the New York senate. He was elected to the convention for the revision of the state constitution in 1821; and, there, in co-operation with Erastus Root and Samuel Young, succeeded in effecting the abolition of the previous freehold qualification of $250, and the adoption of universal suffrage in the state of New York. He supported Gen. Jackson during the nullification controversy, and in his attack on the U. S. Bank; was elected to congress as a Jackson democrat in 1832, and by re-election in 1834 served in that body until March, 1837, when he retired from political life to devote himself to the management of his private estate, which was one of the largest in Saratoga county. Early in life he married Hannah Mary, the daughter of Rev. John Close, of Orange county, a prominent revolutionary patriot. She was one of the women "whose price is above rubies," and, to this day, her surviving sons speak of her with an affectionate respect that is little short of veneration. Mr. Cramer died at Waterford, June 1, 1870.

Half a century ago one of the most energetic citizens, leading lawyers and promising public men of this county was Hon. John Cramer of Waterford. The author is indebted to Gen. Bullard for the following incident attending Mr. Cramer's first appearance on the stage of life, which is probably new to most of my readers and is of sufficient interest to be here related. His father, Conrad Cramer, was one of the first settlers in the Saratoga patent, living about three miles southwest of the mouth of Fish creek. In May, 1779, on the approach of the band lead by Thomas Lovelace, (on the raid in which he was captured and hung, December 14, ensuing,) Mr. Cramer packed his family and movables in a wagon and started for Halfmoon point. They reached Simon's tavern (which stood near the river a few rods north of the present line dividing Saratoga from Stillwater, near Wilbur's basin) where the excitement overcome his wife and prematurely brought on the pangs of child birth. The little hotel was crowded with refugees, and the Cramer family could not obtain admittance. At this place and under these circumstances on the 17th of that May, the infant, who subsequently became Hon. John Cramer, state senator and representative in congress, was born. So frail, apparently, was his hold on life that it was thought to be impossible to induce respiration. He weighed less than four pounds, but a maiden aunt determined to save the little waif thus cast upon the sea of time—and succeeded. He lived, a tall, broad chested vigorous man, far beyond the Psalmist's limit to the dawn of the centennial of that liberty with whose birth his was so strangely contemporaneous, and died at his residence in the village of Waterford, June 1, 1870, in the 92d year of his age. He graduated at Union College in 1801, in the fifth class of that honored institution of learning. He was member of assembly in 1806, 1811 and 1842; state senator in 1823-4-5; member of the constitutional convention of 1821, representative in congress from 1833 to 1837, and was appointed a master in chancery in 1865.

FROM The Bench and Bar of Saratoga County
Enos R. Mann
Waterbury & Inman
Ballston, N. Y. 1876
CLASS OF 1801

JOHN CRAMER

At the circuit held by Judge Nathan Williams in May, 1828, the libel suit brought by Hon. John Cramer against Robert Martin and Solomon Southwick was tried. The alleged libel was published in the Albany Daily Advertiser and charged Cramer with corrupt practices as a senator. George W. Kirtland associated with him in the prosecution the well known Elisha Williams of Hudson, and the defendants secured the celebrated advocate, Samuel Stevens of Salem. They were among the foremost lawyers of that era of great men. Williams was undoubtedly, physically, the heaviest gun, for he weighed over 300 pounds avoirdupois. The case attracted great attention, not only from the distinction of the parties, and the reputation of Messrs. Williams and Stevens as orators, but from the array of witnesses for the plaintiff to establish a refutation of the charges. It included such men as Elijah E. Kimball, Nicholas B. Doe, George T. Wright, William L. Fish, John C. Spencer, and Ambrose L. Jordan. The defense placed no witnesses on the stand. Mr. Stevens declined to address the jury, but Mr. Williams dealt out to them one of his glittering and eloquent appeals, such as with which he was wont to daze the jurors of Columbia county half a century ago. One of his sentences was the following: "These defendants have brought here before you the most able and eloquent counselor in the state of New York, and this most able and distinguished counselor displays his most admirable eloquence by holding his tongue." Williams carried the audience and jury with him and secured a verdict for $5,750 and costs. Cramer wanted but a vindication of his character, and it is said that he never collected his judgment.

FROM The Bench and Bar of Saratoga County
Enos R. Mann
Watervliet & Inman
Ballston 1876.