Davis, James
From: N. Kingston, R.I.
Last Residence: St. Albans, N.Y.

Records show one
James Davis, Pvt.
in Capt. John B. Stevenson's Co.,
1st Regt (Laight's) N.Y. Militia.

Company Muster Roll--Sept 2 to Oct 25, 1814,
dated, N.Y. City, Oct 25, 1814, shows he
"never appeared".
CLASS OF 1809

JAMES DAVIS

Lawyer, St. Albans, Vt.
A. B. Union, 1809.
Died, 1868.
A. M. Middlebury, 1812.

Middlebury College
General Catalogue
p. 462 1917
JAMES DAVIS, '69

was born at North Kingston, R. I., Aug. 8, 1783. His father, the late Joshua Davis, Esq., was a farmer, and the owner of a grist-mill. The son worked on the farm until he was 17 years of age, and then attended the mill some 5 yrs. In the latter occupation he found considerable time for reading, and imbied a taste for composing. Feeling the want of a better education than the common school could supply, he became a student of Washington Academy, at the village of Wickford, in December, 1803. In November, 1805, he entered Union College, at Schenectady. To reach that place, he too, passage in a sloop from Wickford to Albany, the voyage lasting 2 weeks. He was a hard student, working until after midnight and through the usual vacations. He graduated in 1809, and in November following, commenced teaching an academy in Lansingburgh, N. Y. He continued in this situation until November, 1810, when he came to St. Albans and commenced the study of law in the office of Asahel Langworthy, Esq. In March, 1811, he left the office of Mr. Langworthy, and continued the study of law with the Hon. Asa Aldis, and his partner, Sanford Gadsby. He was admitted to the bar in the winter of 1812, and not long after opened an office at North Hero, in the county of Grand Isle. In the Fall of 1812, he was appointed States' Attorney for the county, but declined the appointent and removed to Fairfield, where he became partner with Hon. Bates Turner, in the practice of law. This copartnership was broken by the removal of Judge Turner to St. Albans, in 1815; and in 1816, Judge Davis opened an office in Swanton. In the fall of 1816, Judge Aldis proposed to him a copartnership, which he accepted, and in January, 1819, took up his permanent residence in this town. He devoted himself with great assiduity to the business of his office, and was regarded as a sound and judicious lawyer. He never took upon himself, however, the duties of an advocate to any extent, but his preparation of causes for trial was always very full and complete. Feb. 15, 1823, he was married to Miss Esther Palmer, by whom he had two sons, James P., now in the customs department, and Wilbur P., editor and proprietor of the VERMONT TRAN-SCRIPT. In 1828 he was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention which met in June and in September, 1829, and in 1830 a member of the Executive Council of the State. In the Fall of 1843 he was elected associate Judge of Franklin County, and re-elected in 1844. In 1845 he was elected Judge of Probate, and re-elected in '46, '47, '49, '53, '55. In February, 1869, whilst attending the funeral of Mrs. Cynthia Penniman, as a pall-bearer, he was severely injured by the overturning of the carriage in which he was riding, and by a fall in about a year afterward, the neck of his left thigh-bone was fractured, by which accident he was mainly confined to the house for the remainder of his life. He passed his time in reading, writing and study.

One fruit of his writing was "Reminiscences of St. Albans, by an old inhabitant," published in the TRANSCRIPT in a series of numbers.

His contributions to the public press were characterized by great purity and elegance of language, and were principally anonymous essays, in the local newspapers. He was a man of rare modesty and integrity. The world has need of more such men as was our departed friend, the Hon. James Davis.
Of St. Albans, Vt.
A lawyer of ability, came to this county from Rhode Island, in 1803. He became well known for his legal knowledge, was judge of probate court, and died in 1868. His son, Wilber P., has been county clerk for the past ten years, and was at one time connected with the publication of the "Messenger."

FROM Gazetteer and Business Directory of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, Vt. p. 183
Hamilton Child
1883
St. Albans August 18, 1837

Prof. Jonathan Rusk

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 6th inst. with the accompanying annual catalogue and annual circular, had been duly received. For your prompt attention to my request I am much obliged to you. I can fill but few blanks in the catalogue, and most of those in the class of which I was a member. As to myself I am a lawyer by profession, and reside in St. Albans N.C. The degree of A.B. was conferred on me by Middlebury College. David Huntington's original residence was in Connecticut. Formerly to Sullivan was, I think, from Dutchess County. Simon Rush was from Canaan (vt). Col. Robert McLellan's last residence was in Brooklyn where he died in 1831. He was a physician or surgeon in the hospital. I crossed Pvt. More was a lawyer by profession, his last residence was in Cherry Valley where he died several years ago, as I have been informed, with delirium tremens occasioned by the excessive use of tobacco. He was my room mate in college, and even then he was an extravagant smoker. Charles