Forbes, John.
From: Johnstown, N.Y.
Last residence: Syracuse, N.Y.

Records show one
John Forbes
Pvt. in Capt. Jacob Howell's Co.
Farrington's Regt., N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Sept 8, 1814
Expiration of service: Dec 10, 1814
DIED: In Syracuse, on Saturday, the 24th inst.,
Mrs. J. A. Forbes, (wife) of John G. Forbes,
of that city, aged 45 years.

Daily Albany Argus
March 20, 1849
Mr. John G. Forbes, an eminent lawyer, died in this City, a few days ago. He was born in Johnstown, Montgomery County on February 9, 1798, graduated at Union College, studied law with Hon. Daniel Cady, and was admitted to the bar in 1819. Mr. Forbes represented Onondaga County in the Assembly of the State in 1826. In 1837 he was tendered the position of Comptroller, then appointed by the Governor and Senate, which he declined. In 1840, he was appointed by Gov. Seward, one of the Bank Commissioners, and held the office until it was abolished by act of the Legislature in 1843. In 1843, he was selected by a Company of New-York Capitalists to take the Presidency of the Mansfield & Sandusky Railroad in Ohio, and during the year he occupied the position, he relieved the company of heavy embarrassment. His efforts were so successful in this capacity, that the same Company, the next year, sent him to Georgia to manage the financial affairs of the Great Western Railroad in that State, now known as the Macon & Atlanta Railroad. He was equally successful in discharging this trust. Mr. Forbes enjoyed a large and lucrative law practice for more than a quarter of a century. He was also engaged in large business enterprises, in the prosecution of which his advice and judgment were highly valued.

The New-York Times p. 2
November 22, 1861
Friday.

DIED: In this city, on Thursday, November 14, at the residence of his son-in-law, Robert Squires, Esq., John G. Forbes, aged 63 years.

His remains will be taken to Syracuse, N. Y., for interment.

The New-York Times
November 16, 1861.
SKETCH OF HON. JOHN G. FORBES.

There died in this City, on the 14th of November, a gentleman of the legal profession, whose life and character deserve a public notice.

We refer to Hon. John G. Forbes, formerly of Syracuse, but the last few years a member of the family of his son-in-law, Mr. Robert Squires, of the firm of Freeland, Squires & Co., New York. Mr. Forbes was the son of a highly respectable Scotch gentleman, who migrated to this country from Athol, in Perthshire, soon after the establishment of American independence, and located at Johnstown, Montgomery County, where the subject of this notice was subsequently born, in 1792.

Peter Forbes, his father, brought to the wilderness of Central New-York the stern habits and faith of the old Covenanters, and the desire that his children should be educated, not only on the religious principles of his ancestors, but in every department which could open the way to usefulness and distinction. He gave, therefore, to his child every facility for instruction, and at the early age of sixteen, John entered the junior class at Union College, where he was graduated, we believe, in 1816, with the reputation of a fine scholar, and as being the best Greek linguist of his time. He read law at Johnstown with the late Daniel Gady, who, to the close of his own protracted and eminently pure life, regarded him with peculiar friendship.

Mr. Forbes was admitted to the Supreme Court in the Summer of 1819, and immediately removed to Salina,(Now Syracuse,) in the county of Onondaga.

He entered upon his professional life blessed with an intellect of singular symmetry and perfection, with the advantages of a finished education in classic literature, in the elements of civil law, and with an integrity of character which remained unsullied until the last hour of his existence.

One might reasonably suppose that such qualities would inevitably lead an individual, if ambitious of distinction, to the most elevated positions of trust and personal and political fame. There was, however, in the case of Mr. Forbes, a constitutional modesty or self-distrust, a dislike of prominence or notoriety, which alone prevented him from accepting the political honors which his fellow-citizens were ever ready to bestow, and retained him for the greater portion of his life in the more humble, but not unhonored position, of an untitled citizen.
Occasionally, however, his delicacy was overborne by the urgency of his friends. In 1825 he was chosen to represent his district in the State Assembly. In 1837 he was tendered the office of Comptroller, which he declined. In 1840, he reluctantly accepted the responsible of Bank Commissioner, his peculiar qualifications for which were well known to Gov. Seward, who conferred the appointment. It was a time of great financial and commercial revulsion. Our entire system of banking was in a state of transition from the old safety fund to the free or general banking system. The chimerical speculations and extravagance of 1836 had infected all departments of business. Fraud and dishonesty presided at the board of bank directors, as well as in the Stock Exchange; and a duty was owing to the public to see that bank frauds were arrested, issues of worthless paper stopped, and all unsafe institutions forced to liquidate.

As a Commissioner, Mr. Forbes discharged this duty with matchless ability and success. His energy was untiring, his sagacity unrivaled, and his success complete. We do not doubt that his fearless investigation of banking institutions, his skill in detecting the misrepresentations of Presidents, cashiers and directors, and his promptness in closing the doors of insolvent banks, saved to the people of the State hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The ability displayed in finance in the administration of this office invited the attention of capitalists to his merits, and in 1844 he was induced to remove temporarily to Macon, Georgia, as the Treasurer of the Great Western Railroad, then being constructed between Macon and Atlanta, by New-York capital.

As the disbursing and managing agent of this corporation, he acquitted himself to the perfect satisfaction of his principals. When he returned from his completed labors he received the gratulation of "Well done, good and faithful servant."

In 1849 he was elected to the Presidency of the Mansfield, Sandusky & Newark Railroad in Ohio, which was completed and opened under his administration.

In every relation of life, Mr. Forbes inspired entire confidence, by the diligence with which he applied himself to life's duties, by the fidelity he ever displayed to those who committed their interests to his keeping, and by the elevated morality which ever guided his actions.

With him, there was nothing sordid, nothing concealed, nothing unmanly. His clear judgment pronounced beforehand the just results of litigation, and he who sought his counsel to promote dishonest or unjust purposes, left his presence a wiser, if not a better man.
In the central part of New-York, where he was especially known, no man enjoyed to a greater extent the respect and the confidence of his fellow-citizens.

In domestic life he was a model for imitation, faithful as a husband, kind and considerate as a father and friend. Through his entire life, Mr. Forbes preserved the habits of reading and study formed in his youth, and amid the pressure of professional engagements he seldom retired to rest without devoting a few hours to literature or science. With his friends, it was a matter of regret that one so well informed on all subjects, whose thoughts came forth pure and clear as the crystal waters from an unfailing spring, should be restrained by his modest and sensitive nature from imparting to the public the results of his study and reflection.

They who knew and loved him have at least the consolation of his perfect example in the great lessons of life, and although his last days were shrouded in physical weakness and debility, although his mind had lost the light which once illumed it, they can believe that returning vigor would have brought to him nothing of sorrow for the past, but that even in the presence of death, he would calmly have "drawn the drapery of his couch around him, and laid down as if to pleasant dreams."

The New-York Times
November 19, 1861.
Died: In Syracuse, on the 21st, inst., Helen M., eldest daughter of John G. Forbes, esq., aged 18 years. She was beautiful in person, amiable in manners, and possessed of every quality that would render her interesting in the sight of the world. But she had one quality more deep, more lasting than personal charms. She had felt the power of religion and she cherished it, though in secret. A short time before her death she called her weeping friends around her, and urged them to meet her in heaven. Long after her fair body has moldered to dust will those parting words be treasured in the hearts of her afflicted family. She was the idol of her parents, to whom she had ever been as a bright ray of sunshine during her life.

(Syracuse Western Journal)

JOHN FORBES, non-graduate of 1814, of Johnstown, N.Y., was a member of the Adelphic Society.
Adelphic Catalogue 1850