CLASS OF 1802.

JOHN WILLIAMS.

Died at his residence in this village, on the 15th day of March, inst., Col. John Williams, in the 75th year of his age.

The deceased was the last of the children of Gen. John Williams, who departed this life in 1806. Gen. Williams was a descendant of an ancient and distinguished family in England, where he resided until his emigration to this country, about the close of the Revolutionary War. He very soon became settled in Salem, and practised for a number of years as a physician with distinguished success and ability. By his indefatigable industry, great shrewdness and unrivalled financial capacity, he was enabled, in the course of a few years, to amass a very considerable fortune. He became the proprietor of large and extensive tracts of land in several of the northern counties, including Washington, by purchase from the Commissioners of forfeitures, under the attainder acts confiscating the property of the Tories. Among these purchases was one covering a large parcel of land which proved highly valuable, situate in Whitehall, then called Skanesborough, forfeited by the attainder of Andrew P. Sken and others. Though only 56 years of age at the time of his decease, the General was thus enabled to leave his family in easy and somewhat affluent circumstances. Three daughters, and the subject of the present notice, who was the youngest of the family, survived him. The eldest daughter was the consort of the late Hon. A. I. Blanchard, of this village. She died many years ago. The two remaining daughters were Susanna, wife of the Rev. Alexander Proudfit, and Elizabeth, the wife of Ebenezer Proudfit, formerly of this village. All these have descended to the tomb;--the two Mrs. Proudfits having deceased within a few years; it is a most remarkable coincidence, that a lapse of about two years intervened between the decease of the two latter sisters and the Colonel, and they were each in the 75th year of their age at the time of their deaths respectively.

Col. Williams resided for a short period before his father's death at Whitehall; but on the happening of that event, he went into possession of the family mansion, where he has ever since lived. The deceased was plain and unostentatious, and somewhat reserved in intercourse with strangers, while with his friends he was warm, genial and confiding. His mode of transacting business was remarkably correct and systematic. He was a man of strict integrity, and while he was at times rigid in exacting his dues from those who evinced a temper or disposition to evade or deny their indebtedness, or betray their trusts, he was always indulgent and lenient to his honest debtors, and never designedly oppressed any.
His charities were many and liberal, and altho from his utter aversion to show and display, they mostly failed to meet the public eye, there are many yet among the living who have felt their benefits, and who will deeply deplore the loss of him who dispensed them. His death will be widely felt in this county, and indeed throughout the county. He will be long remembered here for the many improvements he made in his native village.

One object of peculiar pride with him was in keeping and continuing in operation, the Village Crist Mill, as it is called, which was erected by his father, the expense of which far exceeded any revenue ever derived from it. This was a subject of remark to him occasionally by some of his friends: his only reply was, that although the mill was a source of no pecuniary profit, it accommodated his neighbors and friends, and that was satisfaction enough for him. He was at the time of his decease, President of the Bank of Salem. He leaves an only daughter, Mary, wife of the Rev. Dr. Bethune, and three grand-children, with the widow of his only son, the late John Williams, Jr., who died in 1846, universally esteemed and respected.

SALEM PRESS
March 23, 1856.
Williams, John
From: Salem, N.Y.
Last residence: Salem, N.Y.

The records show one
John Williams, pvt. Captain Israel Kellogg's Company,
101 Regiment (Cartter's) N. Y. Militia,

commencement of service, March 1, 1813,
expiration of service, October 30, 1814.