YATES, JOHN BARENTSE, a Representative from New York, born in Schenectady, N. Y., February 1, 1784; completed preparatory studies and was graduated from Union College in 1802; studied law; served in the War of 1812 under Gen. Wade Hampton on the northern frontier, and was later aide-de-camp to Governor Tompkins; elected as a Democrat to the Fourteenth Congress (March 4, 1815-March 3, 1817); aided materially in the construction of the Welland canal; judge of Madison county for many years; member of the state assembly in 1836; died in Chittenango, N. Y., July 11, 1836; interment in Walnut Grove cemetery, near Chittenango, N. Y.

(Tentative biography from U. S. Congress' Joint Committee on Printing.)
1802  JOHN B. YATES

Married:—On Tuesday evening, by the Rev. Dr. Nott, John E. Yates, Esq., of Schenectady, to Mrs. Mary Cobb, of this city.—Albany Argus, Aug. 5, 1814.
Died: At St. Croix, where she had gone, accompanied by her husband, for the benefit of her health, Mrs. Mary Yates, aged 35, the amiable consort of John B. Yates, esq.
--The Albany Argus, April 6, 1819
WAR OF 1812 RECORDS

1802  JOHN BARENTSE YATES

In 1812 was commissioned a Captain by Gov. Tompkins, and raised a volunteer artillery company in Schenectady and took part in the campaign of 1813 on the northern border.

Col. John B. Yates, son of Christopher Yates, Captain of a troop of horse artillery under Gen. Wade Hampton, won great renown on the Canadian border.

From the Public Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins:

Capt'n John B. Yates, Albany, July 20th, 1812.

G. O. Headquarters, Albany, July 31, 1813.

The Commander in Chief hereby directs the company of horse artillery at Schenectady, commanded by Capt. John B. Yates, to parade annually five times by company, one of which for the purpose of inspection; and that Capt'n Yates make an annual inspection thereof, to the Commandant of the first regiment of Artillery.

By order of the Commander in Chief:

William Paulding, Jun'r, Adjutant General.

Vol. 1  p. 371

G. O. Headquarters, Albany, July 31, 1813.

The Commander in Chief has received orders from the President of the United States to call into service for the defence of the State of New York, a portion of the Militia thereof.--Among other bodies called out was Capt. John B. Yates' Uniformed Corps of Schenectady.

Vol. 1  p. 446

Capt'n Yates' Corps of Horse Artillery will assemble at such time and places as the commandants of said corps may direct, so that they may be at the Village of Waterford, in Saratoga County, on the 11th of September, at 10 o'clock (1813) in the forenoon, at which time and place the other Uniformed companies from the Thirty-first Brigade will also appear.

Vol. 1  p. 458

Albany, July 6, 1812.

Dear Sir: No General Order has ever been issued organizing the Company of Horse Artillery at Schenectady commanded by Capt'n. John B. Yates, who is now in New York, managing the Union College Lottery. I wish you would issue a General order, prescribing the number of parades the same as in the order for Sizer's Company of Madison County, or as nearly so as may appear to you proper. The Commandant of the Company also wishes an answer to the question put by Sizer namely, whether, the Horse Artillery are entitled to the right when they parade with an infantry Regiment with whom a Company of Cavalry may also parade.

Genl. Paulding
John Barentese Yates

1802

Albany, August 11, 1812.

Sir: You are at liberty to procure for the State (and make return thereof to me) the following articles to be used by the Horse Artillery under your command: 4 Ammunition boxes, 4 Ladles, 2 Lead Aprons, 4 Rammers and sponges, 4 Worm screws, 4 Hand spikes, 4 Waterbuckets, 4 Wurts, 8 Prolonge Ropes, 4 Tin cases for matches, 4 Priming wires, 4 Lin Stocks, 4 Thumb pieces, 4 Matches, 1 Powder measure, 4 Powder horns.

Capt'n John B. Yates.

From Gov. Tompkins

Vol. 3 p 76.

Albany, August 15, 1814.

Dr. Sir: You will please to repair to the Army at Buffalo; if upon consultation with Major Genl. Brown, Brigadier General Peter B. Porter and others whom you may suppose capable of giving prudent advice in the premises, it shall be proper and necessary, you will issue in my name and as my aid, a general order calling out en masse in detachments such portion of the Militia west of Utica as may be required by Major Genl. Brown. You may in the same order prescribe the organization and assign the principal officers. The requisition will of course be under the act of Congress passed 20th Feb. 1795, and the acts supplementary and in addition thereto. A copy is therefore furnished. The organization of the troops to be called out will be upon army principles, namely: 2 regiments to a brigade, ten companies to a regiment and one Captain, two Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, five Sergeants, 6 Corporals, 2 Musicians and 30 privates. Two Lieut.'s,Cols. and two Majors will be the field officers of each Regiment. The Keepers of arsenals and the Deputy Commissary of the Western District, Mr. Carpenter of Whitesboro are to obey all requisitions signed by you in my behalf.

You are to consider yourself vested with full and entire discretion in relations to the premises, and to exercise all needful authority to carry the object of this order into full and complete effect. You may return so soon as in your judgment your longer presence on the Niagara frontier shall have become unnecessary. Lieut. Col. John B. Yates.

P. S. When the Militia are called out you may direct them to appear with a musket, or rifle equipments of every kind fit for service, say knapsack, blanket, canteen, and watchcoat and clothing for three months.

Vol. 3 pp. 495-496.
In a letter under date of August 13, 1814 to Gen. Brown, Gov. Tompkins says:

"Col. Yates who will present this communication is one of my aids. He is instructed, after consulting with you, to issue any order for the assemblage of the Militia for which you may issue a requisition and to call them out en masse or by detachments as may be deemed most expedient. He is also empowered to direct the Superintendents of State Arsenals to supply the Militia to be called out with equipments so far as our resources may enable them." Vol. 3 p. 497.

"I wish to advise Col. Yates as to the exercise of the discretion and power vested in him, which are very ample." Vol. 3 p. 498.

The Governor Reports to the Legislature the Military Condition of the State under date of Sept. 30, 1814, in part as follows:

"Learning that General Brown's army had retrograded to Erie, and was jeopardized, and that he had called on Major General Hall for a small militia force, I despatched Col. John B. Yates, one of my aids, to that frontier with authority and directions to consult with the principal officers and characters there, and to make a further call for such force as might be deemed necessary. His report is herewith communicated." Vol. 3 p. 540.

Also under date of September 20, 1814:

"So soon as I learned that Gen. Brown's army had retrograded to Erie, one of my aids repaired immediately to that frontier with plenary powers to give any assistance with Militia that might be required. The number proposed by Gen. Brown has been furnished, and he writes me that in the recent sortie they greatly distinguished themselves." Vol. 3 p. 554.
YATES, John Barentse, a Representative from New York; born in Schenectady, N. Y., February 3, 1784; completed preparatory studies, and was graduated from Union College at Schenectady in 1802; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1805, and commenced practice in Schenectady; served in the War of 1812 under Gen. Wade Hampton on the northern frontier, and was subsequently appointed aide-de-camp to Gov. Daniel D. Tompkins; elected as a Democrat to the Fourteenth Congress (March 4, 1815-March 3, 1817); was not a candidate for renomination in 1816; aided materially in the construction of the Welland Canal; founded the Yates Polytechnic Institute in 1825; moved to Chittenango, Madison County, in 1816; judge of Madison County in 1835 and 1836; elected a member of the State assembly in 1836 and served until his death in Chittenango, N. Y., July 10, 1838; interment in Walnut Grove Cemetery, near Chittenango, N. Y.
CLASS OF 1802

JOHN B. YATES

The Yates Polytechnic Institute:—This institution was founded by John B. Yates. The building was purchased by him from Elisha Carey, it having been built in 1814 for an inn. Rev. Andrew Yates, brother of John B., was first President, and continued in that position till 1832. It was a very popular school, having students from all parts of the Union. Judge Yates sustained the school with its corps of six professors, giving to the students the most liberal advantages, at a great pecuniary sacrifice to himself. In 1832, it was closed for want of adequate substantial support to maintain its generous plan. On the death of Mr. Yates, in 1836, when his estate came in process of settlement, the building was bought by Henry Yates, who deeded it to trustees for school purpose, the name being changed from "Polytechny," its original name, to "Yates Polytechnic Institute."

FROM History of Madison County, N. Y. p. 675
Mrs. L. M. Hammond
Trusair, Smith & Co.
Syracuse 1872.
Died: At St. Croix, where she had gone, accompanied by her husband, for the benefit of her health. Mrs. Mary Yates, aged 35, amiable consort of John B. Yates, esq. —

The Albany Argus, April 6, 1808.
TRIBUTE TO THE HON. T. B. YATES DEC.

The directors of the Welland canal company, had a meeting at St. Catharines, U. C. on the 3d. inst. The following is an extract from the minutes of the Board.

"The Board of Directors of the Welland Canal Company, having now for the first time assembled since the melancholy announcement of the death of John B. Yates, esq. The projector of the Canal in its present large dimensions, and since the commencement of the work, its chief and most steady supporter, deem it to be their duty, before proceeding to business, to express their deep and unfeigned sorrow for the irreparable loss they have sustained in being deprived of one whose frank and generous manners not only endeared him to members of this, but all former Boards, since the commencement of this great and useful undertaking, and whose character, marked by energy and decision, rendered him active and persevering in every undertaking and particularly so in supporting the Welland Canal through the many difficulties it has had to encounter, in doing which, neither his time, his talents, or his purse, were refused. The Board in testimony of their high respect for the virtues of the deceased, Order, that this tribute to departed with, be recorded on their minutes."

Daily Albany Argus, August 31, 1836.

Honz JOHN B. YATES, A.M., 1802, was a resident of Chittenango, and a member of the Philomathean Society. He died in 1836.

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.
1802 JOHN BARENTSE YATES:

Memorial of John B. Yates relative to the Literary Institution in Chittenango. To the Hon. the Legislature of the State of New York, in Senate and Assembly convened. (1 1/2 columns).

Daily Albany Argus
January 27, 1830
CHRISTOPHER YATES and JANNETTE BRATT

sons:
1. Andrew
   b. January 17, 1773 Schenectady
   d. October 13, 1844
2. John Barent
   b. February 1, 1784 at Schenectady
   d. July 10, 1836 at Chittenango
   m. Mrs. Mary Cobb August 5, 1814
   d. April 6, 1819

Andrew Yates m. Mary Austin October 8, 1797

children:
1. son Christopher b. August 3, 1798 at Schenectady
   d. December 11, 1812 at E. Hartford, Conn
2. son John Austin b. May 31, 1801 d. August 26, 1849
3. son Andrew Janeway b. April 20, 1803 d. August 8, 1856
   (Union 1822)
   m. Hannah Allin Hooker of E. Hartford, Conn. May 11,
   1810 b. September 4, 1785, died October 20, 1859
   (daughter of Mary Chaffee and James Hooker)
   children:
   1. Mary Austin b. May 20, 1811
   2. Christopher b. July 18, 1813 d. May 20, 1815
   m. John R. Ireland
   (adopted daughter Hannah)
   8. Thomas Hooker b. August 29, 1826, d. Aug. 5, 1827

John Austin Yates m. Mrs. Henrietta Maria Cobb autumn 1829

   Union 1821 d. John B. II born Oct. 18, 1833, d. Oct. 20, 1899 Union '52
   at Amherst, Ontario
   2. Austin Andrew b. March 24, 1836 at Schenectady
      d. September 28, 1921 at Schenectady
   3. Arthur R.
   Children:
   4. Henrietta Cobb (died in infancy)
   5. Mary Austin
      m. John Watkins

Austin Andrew Yates m. Josephine Yates December 18, 1865

   Union 1854 d. 1919
   1. Daughter, Henrietta C. died 1917
JOHN B. YATES was born in Schenectady in 1784. Graduated from Union college when 18. Came to Chittenango in 1816. He was at first a general merchant but later was interested in several enterprises. Founded Yates Academy and was one of the organizers of the Reformed Church. Was elected to Congress while a resident of Schenectady. Elected to the Assembly from Madison county in 1835. He died July 10, 1836 and is buried in the old cemetery south about one mile from Chittenango.

St. Johnsville Enterprise & News
October 21, 1936

From: Frontiersmen of Madison County
March 27, 1972

The Hall of Fame for Great Americans
at New York University
Washington Square
Department H
New York, New York 10003

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing two forms of proposal: one for The Honorable John Barentse Yates—the other for Mr. Ezekiel Hersey.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Union College, Schenectady, New York; Chittenango; and to the Hingham Historical Society in Hingham, Massachusetts.

The election of these men to The Hall of Fame for Great Americans would be at least a small repayment of the debt this country owes to the descendants of Joseph and Hubertie Van Bommel Yates, Albany, 1664, and William and Elizabeth (Crowie) Hersey, Hingham, Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1638.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Row Magedanz
(Mrs. Norman A.)

3368 N. Farragut Street
Portland, Oregon 97217

enc. - 2
cc: Mrs. Houck, Chittenango, N. Y.

Yates, John B. - UC Class of 1882
Among the prominent lawyers whose life records constitute a part of the history of Madison County, stood conspicuously John B. Yates, though he won fully as high repute in business affairs, as he did in his profession. He was a native of Schenectady and a graduate of Union College in 1802, when he was 18 years of age. He read law with his brother, Hon. Henry Yates, and was admitted to the bar in 1805. He successfully practiced his profession until 1812, when he received a military commission as captain and raised a company of artillery at the head of which he participated in the disastrous campaign on the northern frontier of New York. After his return from the war his time was largely taken up with general business affairs and as a servant of the people in public office. In 1816 he settled in the village of Chittenango, where he established a mercantile business and engaged in various other undertakings, for the development of the place. In 1818 he built a plaster mill, adjoining a grist mill, which he had acquired, and after the discovery of water lime, was largely interested in its manufacture. He was the principal active factor in the construction of the lateral canal connecting Chittenango with the Erie Canal, and also ran a line of packets between the village and Utica. He maintained the Polytechnic School a number of years at his own expense and in many other ways was the special mainspring of progress in the village. He was elected to Congress before leaving Schenectady, serving from 1815 to 1817. In the latter year he was appointed to supervise the State Lotteries for the promotion of literature. In 1835 he was elected to the Assembly from Madison County and in 1837 was chosen County Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held until January, 1843. He was holding both offices at the time of his death.

Our County & Its People (Madison Co., N.Y.)
pp. 401-2
John E. Smith, Editor
Boston History Co.
1899
JOHN BARENTSE YATES

John B. Yates was a native of Schenectady and was graduated from Union College in 1802 at the age of eighteen years. He read law with his brother Hon. Henry Yates, and was admitted to the bar in 1805. He practiced his profession till 1812, when, having been commissioned a Captain by Governor Tompkins, he raised a volunteer artillery company and participated in the disastrous winter campaign of 1813 on the northern border of the State. He was elected to Congress while residing in Schenectady, serving from 1815 to 1817. The latter year he was appointed to supervise the State lotteries for the promotion of literature and distinguished himself by their efficient and successful management. In 1835, he was elected to the Assembly from this county (Madison), and was engaged in the performance of the duties of that office and of County Judge at the time of his death, July 10, 1836, aged 52. His widow, who subsequently became the wife of Stephen J. Brinkerhoff, is still living at Chittenango.

Education and religion were the recipients of his munificent care. Himself liberally educated he evinced a generous disposition to impart its advantages to others. With this object in view he founded in Chittenango a polytechnic institute under the presidency of his brother, Rev. Andrew Yates, and in his will made a munificent devise for educational objects, which, however, realized little of the intended benefit. The Reformed church of Chittenango is largely the fruit of his energetic efforts in the interest of religion, and contains a memorial tablet on which is memorized the characteristics which distinguished his social life.

FROM History of Chenango and Madison Counties
James H. Smith
D. Mason & Co., Syracuse, 1880 page 746.

John Barentse Yates, a Representative from New York, born in Schenectady, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1784; completed preparatory studies and was graduated from Union College in 1802; studied law; served in the War of 1812 under Gen. Wade Hampton on the northern frontier, and was later aide-de-camp to Gov. Tompkins; elected as a Democrat to the Fourteenth Congress (March 4, 1815-March 3, 1817); aided materially in the construction of the Welland canal; judge of Madison county for many years; representative in the State Assembly in 1836; died in Chittenango, N. Y., July 11, 1836.

FROM A Biographical Congressional Directory 1774-1911
Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C. 1913.
JOHN B. YATES

He was the youngest child of Christopher and Jane Yates, and was born in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1784. His father, an officer in the Revolution, died during his infancy. In the year 1802, at the early age of 18, he graduated at Union College, and soon after entered upon the study of the law with his brother, the Hon. Henry Yates. In 1805, he was admitted to the bar, and during the seven years following addressed himself with unceasing diligence to the labors of the profession he had chosen. In the War of 1812, he was commissioned Captain by Governor Tompkins and raised a volunteer company of horse artillery. With this company he joined the army of Gen. Hampton, and served under that general during the unfortunate winter campaign of 1813, in the northern woods of this State.

At the expiration of the war he was elected Member of the 14th United States Congress from the 15th (Schenectady and Schoharie) District, term of 1815-1816, in which he took a prominent part. After the close of his Congressional term he removed to Utica, where he resumed the functions of his legal profession. Soon, however, he changed his home to Chittenango, The Governor, on returning from office in 1817, to assume the duties of Vice-President of the United States, appointed him sole manager of the "Literature Lotteries" of the State, confidence in which had been lost by the misconduct of the manager who immediately preceded him. In consequence of the acceptance of this trust, it became necessary for him to remove to the city of New York, which he did, and did not resume his residence in Chittenango till 1825; but during his residence in the city he frequently visited Chittenango, to examine and direct the conduct of those in charge of his large estate, which consisted of about 2,000 acres of land, flouring mills, saw mills, oil mill, lime and plaster mill, woolen factory, store, dry dock and yards for building and repairing boats, Polytechnic School, and various residences and other buildings. At times, as many as 150 men were in his employ. The result of his management of the lotteries was that he brought them to a successful termination before the expiration of the time limited by the Legislature.

He also became interested in the commercial importance of the Welland Canal, at a time when its stockholders were nearly sinking for want of funds, and invested to the amount of $137,000.

In Madison county and particularly in his adopted town, his services were of incalculable value. He cast his influence in favor of the Erie Canal, as well as other enterprises already enumerated.

In 1826, he received the appointment of Judge of the County Court, which position he held for a short period and resigned.

He was, however, subsequently appointed first Judge of the County, which office, together with being a member of the Assembly, he held at the time of his decease. Although he seemed especially fitted for public stations, he studiously avoided political preferment and place; and it was only by the partiality of his fellow citizens that he was raised to those stations of public trust which he so nobly adorned.
Hon. John B. Yates died at his residence in Chittenango on the 10th day of July, 1835, aged 52 years. His death was felt as a great public calamity and every incident connected with his sickness, which was brief, was published at every issue of the press of the county; and when his death was announced, it was received with heartfelt expression of sorrow and regret, and a large proportion of the newspapers of the country were draped in mourning, for a great and good man had fallen.

The following extract from one of the newspapers of the day, but adds one of the many high eulogies upon his life:

"In his death, community at large have sustained a loss. His influence was felt throughout the length and breadth of at least our State, if not of the country, during the last session of the Legislature. The place of his residence must necessarily feel the severity of the stroke of Divine Providence in this bereavement. The whole community is agitated under its influence--its shock is universal--their loss cannot be repaired. Not only his influence, but his public spirit was felt in his efforts to elevate their moral and intellectual condition, and in devising and executing schemes of public improvement, for their temporal and eternal prosperity. He descends to the grave, it is confidently believed, not only without an enemy, but enjoying the esteem of all his acquaintances, and the unqualified love of all who had the happiness of becoming his friends.

"In his decease, the wife has been bereaved of a tender and affectionate husband--the relatives a generous and benevolent brother and friend--the widow and fatherless of a benefactor--the poor of one whose charities were profuse--and the cause of Christ an able defender and generous supporter."

As he devoted his mind and means with such assiduity, he affected for the village of Chittenango a greater prosperity than any other person; hence he was regarded as the founder of the village. In fact, the history of Chittenango is everywhere marked by his munificent deeds.

His desire for the advancement of education induced him to found, at his own expense, the Polytechnic College in Chittenango, which was ably conducted for nearly ten years.

His financial operations, in connection with his partners, raised Union College from a state of comparative insolvency to that of opulence and distinction. To carry out his views in regard to the proper conduct of institutions for a thorough practical and literary education, as well as an elevated moral training, he made careful arrangements in his will for the bestowal of a large amount of his property to this end.

Had his views been carried out by our State Legislature, as has since been done for Cornell University, an institution like that would have been established, and in successful operation thirty years ago. Chittenango might have had the advantage of its location, and one generation more at least have been blest with its fruits; whereas, that sum designed by him for this noble use, has realized little of its intended worthy purposes, although his trustees used their utmost endeavors to bring the Legislature to concur with his plans.
In Walnut Grove Cemetery, south of Chittenango village, can be seen the monument erected to his memory. Carved upon the stone is the noble face of one whose numerous good deeds are inscribed in the enduring marble.

In the Reformed Church there is also placed a neat memorial tablet, which has the following inscription:

SACRED

TO

Memory of the
Hon. John B. Yates
Who Died
July 10th, 1836.

He was eminently possessed of the characteristics of a great and good man, ever distinguished for his philanthropy and benevolence.

As a friend he was generous and changeless. By this society his name is deservedly cherished with grateful and affectionate remembrance.

In the erection of this house of worship, he was deeply interested, and toward the completion of the object was the most liberal benefactor.

The memory of the just is blessed; Prov. 10:7. The liberal deviseth liberal things and by liberal things he shall stand; Isa. 32:18.


Mrs. L. M. Hammond
Trueair, Smith & Co.
Syracuse 1872.