The following sketch of the life of the late Judge Masters, furnished by a friend, will be read with interest by the many friends of the deceased, and of his family in this vicinity:

Hon. Nicholas M. Masters, who died on the morning of the 28th ult., at the residence of his son, Hon. John T. Masters, well known as the United States Collector of Internal Revenue, was born at Schaghticoke May 8th, 1790. His father, Nicholas Masters, was a farmer highly esteemed for his intelligence and integrity of character. His uncle, Judge Josiah Masters, represented the Rensselaer district in Congress for several years. Under his auspices the subject of this sketch was prepared for college. He first entered Williams College, but graduated at Union College about the year 1810. He then went to Sandy Hill, where he studied law in the office of Roger Skinner, the State Senator. Judge Wm. Hay was a fellow student. He was admitted to the bar about 1814, and removing to the village of Troy, with Levi Bumsey and Samuel Cheever as partners, commenced the practice of his profession. In 1815 he was married to Miss Anna I. Thomas, daughter of John Thomas of Sandy Hill. He resided in Troy six years, during which time he received from Gov. Clinton the appointment of Master in Chancery and subsequently of Surrogate of Rensselaer county. But the confinement of office work impaired his health to such an extent that he abandoned his profession and returned to the homestead in Schaghticoke. But retiring from the city to the country did not mean for him a life of inactivity. He took an active and influential part in all matters of public interest. He was largely interested in the manufacture of gunpowder at Schaghticoke, and active in everything pertaining to the growth and welfare of the community. He was for many years an elder in the Presbyterian church, and was also a member of the General Assembly. He was for many years a Justice of the Peace, and often represented his town in the Board of Supervisors. He was twice a member of the Legislature of the State of New York—once in 1832 and again in 1855. In 1844 he was chosen Presidential Elector, when the vote of the State was cast for James K. Polk. He was twice a candidate for Member of Congress, but being nominated by the Democrats and the Whig party in the ascendancy he was not elected. In politics he was always liberal, and a friend to progress and reform. Hence he was ever a determined foe to slavery. In 1848 he gave his vote to Van Buren, because his party refused to endorse the Wilmot proviso. When the Republican party was formed he was one of its first, most active and influential supporters. During the war for the preservation of the Union, although too old to take an active part, yet his warmest sympathies were for the government, the President and the army. For the past ten years he has been a resident of
Greenwich. He was always kind and genial to all, always ready to do good especially to the needy and distressed, and never refused his aid when it was needed. His funeral took place on Sunday at 1 o'clock, P. M., on which occasion his old pastor, Rev. Dr. Noble, officiated. --Troy Times, 1885 February.

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Collection of newspaper obituaries in the N. Y. State Library.

NICHOLAS M. MASTERS, A.M., 1812, a resident of Schaghticoke, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.

(Died: 1873)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.