April 4th, 1885,
John Rugg.

My dear Sir,

On the 29th of March last, my father John Rugg died; he had always lived in high regard and esteem of you, and the institution over which you presided, and often have I heard how upheld himself in the highest terms of praise both of your character as a man and student.

It was his great desire to send his sons to your college for instruction, but misfortune overtook him when about to send us there, and he never was able thereafter to accomplish that object because he was poor. He always lived an honest man. Enclosed please find a copy of the Revolution's paper.
Messrs. of the Bar.—At a meeting of the members of the bar of this county upon the decease of John Roos, Esq., at the Library Room of the Court of Appeals on the 29th inst. The meeting was called to order by J. H. Lawrence, Esq., and Daniel Pratt appointed Chairman and H. Bundle Secretary. Upon the suggestion of Mr. Lawrence, a committee was appointed by the Chair to present resolutions. J. H. Lawrence, R. Woolworth and D. H. Hills were appointed such committee.

Whereupon the following resolutions were presented by Mr. Lawrence:

Resolved. That in the depth of our sorrow, John Roos, Esq., the profession has sustained the loss of a sound and able lawyer, a correct and careful practitioner, a mild and courteous antagonist, a good counselor and an honest man.

Resolved. That for patient and tireless investigation, determination, and courage in presenting and enforcing his views, and perseverance in despising of his business, Mr. Roos had not a superior at this bar.

Resolved. That in the blandness of his life and character, his tender and affectionate nature as a father and a friend, and his rectitude as a citizen, we find an example for his brethren worthy of imitation.

Resolved. That we sincerely sympathize with his afflicted family at this hour of their severe bereavement and sorrow, and in their irreparable loss.

Resolved. That as a testimony of our high regard for the memory of the deceased, we, the members of this bar, will attend upon the funeral ceremonies at the Nuyseuse House on Saturday next.

Resolved. That the Chairman appoint four of our members to accompany the remains of our deceased brother to Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield, to act as pall bearers.

Resolved. That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and published in the daily papers of the city, and a copy thereof transmitted to the family of the deceased.

On presenting the above resolutions, General Lawrence said:

Mr. Chairman—Death, yes sudden death, has again come into our professional ranks, and another of our brethren has fallen a prey to the destroyer. During the last week, our deceased brother, walked the streets and attended to his professional business, in the enjoyment of his usual health and cheerfulness. Little did he or we suspect that so soon he was to enter that world whence no traveler returns. Verily, “in the midst of life we are in death.” Perhaps a similar and unexpected exit awaits some of us. We cannot too frequently give this subject our serious consideration, and let it have a practical bearing and influence upon our lives, for “it is not all of death, to die!”

The late John Roos, Esq., was in one respect, especially, what every lawyer should be—a man, who was, emphatically, a faithful friend. No man studied his case harder, no doubt one in which money was at stake.

He never made any pretensions to eloquence, but by the full possession of himself, the distinctness and good judgment always enabled him to apply the law with consummate skill. His clients never suffered by his negligence or want of application. For this cannot be said of all the lawyers of the present day. He studied his profession as a science, and at time when it was not considered as a man, however gifted, could become a good lawyer in a few months, or even years, but after long and useful study of the great principles of common law, and by serving a laborious clerkship. It was a great mistake to suppose that any man can become possessed of the science by intuitions—by all in a few brief months or years; he can qualify himself for the practice of the profession by the study of the science of the profession, and by passing in the science of the profession. He must study the science, however, to be a good common lawyer; his indefatigable perseverance and industry. How admirably are we admonished by our brethren, this sudden and unexpected Providence, that we are all passing away—and now we are being exhorted how to the disposal of Him who makes no mistakes, in His government of the world—let us make a wise improvement of this accidental warning.

The meeting was also addressed by R. H. Gammon, D. H. Miller, Judge Sprague, and others.

Mr. Sevigne said.—The disposition that has covering us at this time, is one that kindly calls on us to pause in our rapid, onward career in life. Comparatively but a few hours have elapsed since our junior brother in our profession, and friend in social life, was wakmg—waking with us. Indelible in all his undertakings, all the merit in his clients was faithfully brought out and presented in their strongest light. In this respect, he leaves us an example worthy of imitation by us, and all who may follow him in that profession, in which he justly held a high and enviable position. From that high position—from life itself—he is suddenly, and by the lightning stroke, struck down. That fatal stroke of the hand of death yielded the approach of death, and now cold in its outcome. It was wise then, sir, for us while in life to prepare for death, and while we are enjoying the blessings of time, to prepare for eternity.

Upon motion the resolutions were adopted—

The meeting was then adjourned.

D. Pratt, Chairman.

H. Biddle, Secretary.
DEATH OF JOHN RUGER, Esq. — We are called upon to announce the death of John Ruger, Esq., of this City, which occurred yesterday at the Syracuse House. The cause was apoplexy, with which he was attacked several days since. Mr. R. formerly resided in Oneida, and was twice chosen to the Legislature from that County. He has been a resident of Syracuse about six years. His age was 63. The County Court adjourned on the announcement of his decease. The funeral will be attended at the Syracuse House tomorrow morning, and the remains taken to Bridgewater for interment. — Standard.

Evening Chronicle -- Syracuse, N. Y. -- March 30, 1855

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 403
JOHN RUGER

Syracuse, March 29, 1855.

John Ruger, an eminent lawyer and politician, died this morning of congestion of the brain. He was about sixty-three years old.

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 407
Ruger, John
From: Cherry Valley, N.Y.
Last residence: Syracuse, N.Y.

Records show one
John Rugar (also borne as Ruger)
Pvt. in Capt. John Baker's Co. Light Infantry
3rd Battalion (Robert's) N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Aug. 17, 1813
Expiration of service: Nov. 18, 1813
Brothers Receive Highest Honors at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School

William Hopkins.

An unusual situation will occur at the graduation of the seniors at the Ballston Lake-Burnt Hills High School June 21, when two brothers will hold the highest honorary positions of the class. John Hopkins, 15, has been selected as the valedictorian and his brother, William Hopkins, as salutatorian. The boys are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. George Hopkins, who live near Ballston Lake.

John will give an address on “Australia” for his commencement speech and his brother one on the “League of Nations.”

John Hopkins is named for his great-grandfather, John Ruger, who graduated with his brother, Thomas Jefferson Ruger, from Union College, and was an honor man there, winning Phi Beta Kappa. He died in 1857, a judge of the Supreme Court of Oneida county. William Hopkins was also named for a great-grandfather, William Rogers Hopkins, professor of mathematics and engineering at the U. S. Naval Academy, when it moved from Annapolis, Md., to Newport, R. I., at the outbreak of the Civil war.
CLASS OF 1816

JOHN RUGER

One of the ablest attorneys who ever practiced here (Bridgewater) was John Ruger.

History of Oneida Co., N.Y. p. 430.
Everts & Fariss 1878.

John Ruger was a prominent lawyer and practiced in Bridgewater until 1847, when he removed to Syracuse and continued until his death in 1855. He and his son, William Crawford Ruger were partners until the father’s death.

William Crawford Ruger was born Jan. 30, 1824 in Bridgewater, N. Y., and died in Syracuse in 1892.

Onondaga’s Centennial
v. 1 p. 352
Dwight H. Bruce
1896.

Hon. JOHN RUGER, 1816, of Bridgewater, N.Y., was a member of the Adelphic Society.
Adelphic Catalogue 1830
(Died: 1855)
We regret to hear that John Ruger of Syracuse, died on the 29th instant, by congestion of the brain. Mr. Ruger graduated at Union College in 1814, with a most creditable standing in his class. His subsequent life was devoted quite exclusively to the legal profession, which he pursued in Oneida county down to 1849, when he removed to the city of Syracuse, where he resided until his death. As a lawyer, he was distinguished for the zeal and untiring industry with which he pursued his profession, and for his fidelity to the interests of his clients. In all the relations of private life and of social intercourse his character was irreproachable, and his honesty and sincerity proverbial. Although warm and decided in his political views—uniformly acting zealously and efficiently with the Democratic party—it was only in 1822, as a Member of Assembly from Oneida county, that he allowed political life to withdraw him from his profession. In the death of John Ruger the world lost an honest man.

Albany Argus       Saturday       March 31

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book   p. 407
JOHN RUGER

The late John Ruger, Esq., was in one respect, especially, what every lawyer should be—he was emphatically a faithful lawyer. No man studied his case harder, or looked up the law of it with more care and assiduity.

He never made any pretensions to eloquence; but after fully possessing himself of the facts, his discrimination and good judgment always enabled him to apply the law with consummate skill.—His clients never suffered by his negligence or want of application. I fear this cannot be said of all the lawyers of the present day. He studied his profession as a science, and at a time when it was not supposed that a man, however gifted, could become a good lawyer in a few months, or even years, but after long and careful study of the great principles of common law, and by serving a laborious clerkship. It is a great mistake to suppose that any man can become possessed of the science by intuition—or that in a few brief months or years he can qualify himself to enter upon the duties of the profession with credit to himself, or with profit and safety to his clients. This, we know, was the opinion of our deceased brother. He was not what is called a genius, and yet he made his mark high up on the scroll of the profession. He owed his celebrity, however, to his good common sense—his indefatigable perseverance and industry. How solemnly are we admonished by this sudden and unexpected Providence, that we are all passing away: and now as we submissively bow to the dispensation of Him who makes no mistakes in His government of this world—let us make a wise improvement of this admonitory warning.

From: The Meeting of the Bar of Onondaga County on p. 409 of Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book