



# *the Masonic Philatelist*

**VOL. 17**

**MARCH 1961**

**NO. 7**



**A GREAT MASONIC AMERICAN**  
**De Witt Clinton**

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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## *By the sign of the Gavel*

Well, Old Man Weather has surely been affecting attendance at recent meetings, but not our enthusiasm. Despite one of the biggest blizzards in many years, a number of stalwarts, viz., Bros. Munk, Yarry, Swan, Osterlund, Sehlmeier, Ehrig, Shoop and Dehmer, kept me company in enjoying the proceedings and in examining the material belonging to our Club which is maintained by our Curator, Bro. Shelton Osterlund. Thanks to all, and particularly Bro. Chester E. Wing, who had so generously donated his valuable stamp collection. Many other brothers had telephoned their regrets

### ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month  
Collector Club Building  
22 East 35th Street, N.Y.C.  
7th Meeting—March 3, 1961  
Guest Speaker—John N. Meyer  
Colombia (with slides)

### IN MEMORIAM

HARRY M. KONWISER  
"Gone but not forgotten."

that the storm had forced them to miss this gathering.

For our next meeting on March 3, 1961 it will be our privilege and good fortune to have as our guest speaker the well-known Colombian specialist and philatelic author, Mr. John N. Meyer. He will not only talk on his specialty, the "Colombian Numeral Issues of 1904-1917," but will display his prize-winning collection. He will augment his talk with descriptive slides. This promises to be an outstanding evening both from a philatelic and an educational standpoint and you should make every effort to attend.

Your writer was present on February 16, 1961 when the Grand Lodge of New York State was the recipient of a nine-foot statue of George Washington in full Masonic regalia. This beautiful work of art was created by Donald de Lue, a past president of the National Sculpture Society, and represents Washington as master of his Lodge in Alexandria, Va. This will remain permanently on display at the Masonic Temple, 71 West 23rd Street, New York City, and should be viewed by all who visit that Temple.

Your President, accompanied by Publicity Director Salomon and Editor Sehlmeier, as a Committee from our Club, attended and were greeted by various dignitaries on the occasion of the Annual Tribute to George Washington, The Mason, held on February 21st at the Sub-Treasury Building, Wall Street, New York City. The impressive ceremony was sponsored by the Associated Masonic Clubs of the State of New York, Order of Eastern Star and Order of Constellations of Junior Stars. The Master of Ceremonies was Capt. Maurice M. Witherspoon, Past Commander General, Masonic War Veterans and National Chaplain, N. L. M. C., who conducted the proceedings in his usual capable manner.

It gives me extreme pleasure to report that by action of the Board of Governors on January 23, 1961, the Lake Erie Chapter No. 2 of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was unanimously approved as a Chapter of our Club. We all join in congratulating this new group and wishing them the best of everything. Their last meeting was held on February 15th at the Masonic Library, 3615 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, the featured speaker being Bro. Mark G. Snow on the subject of "George Washington, The Mason." Any of our members in that area who are desirous of joining this new and energetic local group should contact Bro. Raymond H. Runt, 9619 Rosewood Avenue, Cleveland 5, Ohio. A list of officers and members will be included in a subsequent issue of this paper, as well as current news as received by our Editor.

May I ask every member to note that May 26, 1961 is the date for our Annual Dinner; more details later when Dr. Yarry's Committee reports back. In answer to many inquiries, we intend to confer the Degree of Philately at that occasion. The New York Chapter is usually at its best that time of year, so it is hoped that many of our out-of-town brothers will plan ahead to arrange to be with us then.

—Emanuel M. Reggel.

### OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Pres. Reggel opened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Invocation was given by Dr. Swan, followed by one minute of silence for Bro. Harry M. Konwiser who passed away on January 29, 1961 at the Masonic Home, Utica, New York.

The Pres. greeted the stalwarts who had braved the elements. He mentioned that Bros. Sanna and Schwarz had also been present at the pre-meeting dinner at Sacher's, but on leaving the restaurant, decided it would be prudent, in view of the extremely heavy snowfall, to leave immediately for their distant homes. He also stated that he had received a number of telephone calls from a large number of members who had planned to attend the meeting, but understandably, had decided to stay at home instead.

Bro. Reggel delivered a eulogy for Bro. Harry Konwiser, stressing his great devotion and contributions to our Club, as well as to Philately in general.

Our Pres. also reported that he and Bro. Sehmeyer had attended on January 19th a meeting at the Collectors Club of representatives of the various study groups which meet in that build-

ing. A Committee of the Collectors Club, under the Chairmanship of Dean Herbert P. Woodward, is formulating plans for a meeting on May 17, 1961 at which each of the eleven different study groups will be represented by exhibits and speakers on their respective phases of philately. We have been allotted three frames. After discussion, we decided to participate and be represented by Sam Brooks and Dr. Swan, as leading exponents in their respective specialties. This promises to be an extremely interesting session, and any of our members who do not belong to the Collectors Club will be very welcome as visitors for that occasion.

Bro. Reggel read a letter from the Victoria Masonic Philatelic Society, and directed that we add that organization, as well as New South Wales Philatelic Society to our mailing list.

ANNUAL DINNER—On motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that this popular event be held on May 26, 1961. Dr. Yarry was appointed Chairman of Committee to determine place, price and other details, including selection of guest of honor.

Pres. Reggel read letter from Bro. Huxsell. Bro. Sehmeyer read letters from Bros. J. Wallace Fraser, Fred Jelsema, Chas. Schuldt, S. J. Benson, Edward Mining and Cecil Gaston. Treasurer Joe Munk read communications from Alex Koomanoff, Jewell Potter, Norman Williams, Louis Brehl, Fred L. Hill, John Hubert, Myrton Brink and Richard M. Needham. All of these very interesting and informative; excerpts will be printed in the Philatelist as space permits. Many of those to our Treasurer enclosed dues which they stated they preferred to pay now rather than next June.

Meeting then turned over to Program Chairman, Dr. Swan, who stated that the purpose was to review parts of the material belonging to the Club, now in the custody of our Curator, Bro. Osterlund. He thanked Shelton for having ventured here in this bad weather and for having placed the material in the exhibit frames. Bro. Osterlund then explained each of the numerous frames, including pictures taken at the various Swap Nights and other occasions, stamps donated by various members, but particularly four full frames of Masonic Philatelic stamps from the Chester E. Wing Collection. In addition, there were on display the complete six volumes which Bro. Wing had so kindly donated to our Club.

Pres. Reggel again expressed the gratitude of the Club for this ex-

trremely interesting, complete and valuable gift from Bro. Wing. He also thanked Bro. Osterlund for the loving care which he is giving, as Curator, in perpetuating these and other items which are the property of the Club. Also thanks to Fred Dehmer for chauffeuring Shelton and assisting in mounting of the frames.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**"NASSAU STREET"**

Thank you, Brother Herman Herst, for your contribution to the Club. As our readers know, "Pat" is author of the best-selling book about philately, captioned as above. We understand that the first edition is nearly exhausted. Any member wishing to buy a copy and have it autographed should write to Brother Herst at Shrub Oak, New York and inform him that he is a fellow club-member.



**MARCH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY  
DE WITT CLINTON**

Born — Little Britain, New York, March 2, 1769.

Died—Albany, New York, February 11, 1828.

Raised in Holland Lodge No. 16 (now No. 8), September 3, 1790. He became Secretary in 1792, Warden in 1793 and elected Worshipful Master, December 24, 1793. His first assignment in Grand Lodge was that of carrying instructions to country lodges. Al-

though a Mason for less than five years, in 1795 he was chosen Junior Grand Warden. He served on several Grand Lodge committees and assisted individual lodges to iron out their difficulties. In 1798 he was elected Senior Grand Warden. In 1806 he was Grand Master, serving continuously in that office until June 7, 1820, when he declined re-election.

His other Masonic activities included: Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, General Grand High Priest, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templars of New York. At the time of his death he was General Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Graduated from Columbia College at 15, he then studied law and was admitted to the Bar in 1788. His political career began with an appointment as secretary to his Uncle George Clinton, Governor of New York. Later he was elected to the Assembly, State Senate, United States Senate, Lieutenant Governor, and then Governor for four terms. He also served as Mayor of New York City for about 12 years. In 1812 he was a candidate for President, but was defeated by James Madison.

He is remembered for his efforts in building the Erie Canal and the establishment of the free Public School system in the State. The Erie Canal laid the foundation for New York's commercial supremacy. The Public School laid the foundation for its educational and cultural leadership. He dedicated the Canal with Masonic ceremonies during the first voyage on the Canal, begun October 25, 1825. He helped organize the State Historical Society, the State Library, the Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Fine Arts and other cultural institutions.

He was Governor of New York State during the Morgan excitement, but not flinching from his duty, he did everything possible to apprehend and punish those responsible for the abduction. When other Masons were seceding, he remained firm in his devotion to the Order. It can truly be said of him, "he was a great Masonic American."

Although De Witt Clinton's picture has never appeared on any of our postage stamps, it is contained on the U.S. Internal Revenue Stamp formerly affixed to countless millions of packages of cigarettes. Stamps are no longer being attached to the packets. Thus it is possible that his portrait is on more stamps than any other American, except, perhaps, Washington or Franklin.—Sam Brooks.

### THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

It may not be generally known that there exists a Masonic link with the famous Statue of Liberty which is such a striking feature at the entrance to New York Harbor, for the cornerstone of its substantial base was laid with Masonic rites by Officers of the Grand Lodge of New York on August 5, 1884.

The famous landmark, it may be recalled, was the outcome of a gesture of goodwill to its sister Republic of the United States by the French after their own came into being, soon after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was commissioned by the French to design the

statue, and the American Congress authorized the site for its erection on Bedloe's Island, 2,950 yards long, which lies to the southwest of the harbor entrance and which it now occupies. The French nation defrayed the cost of \$450,000 for the statue, and the United States that of \$350,000 for the base.

The erection of the statue was completed in four years, and it was unveiled on October 28, 1886. The total height of the monument is 305 feet, 6 inches, the statue itself being 151 feet, 1 inch high, and said to weigh over 200 tons.

—The Freemason, Canada.

### Check List of Masons On Stamps of United States

We are indebted to Brother Marshall S. Loke of 56 Langford Road, Rochester 15, New York for the following communication and Check List.

"Have been writing up a new check list. The last one in the Masonic Philatelist was nearly three years ago, so this one is a bit more up-to-date (January 1961).

In spite of efforts to make it as complete and accurate as possible, it falls far short of perfection. I would welcome suggestions for improving the list, corrections, or even criticisms.

You will notice quite a few names missing. In this listing I included only persons whose figures or portraits are used on stamps. I will follow it up with another list of Masons like Bailey, Beard, Byrd, Gadsen, Peary, Warren, etc., whose stamps honor them only indirectly."

The list includes those signers of the Declaration (U.S. #120) and of the Constitution (U.S. #798) who were Masons. Also included are American Masons on foreign stamps only when not on U.S. stamps. Asterisk (\*) indicates proof of membership not conclusive.

Henry H. ("Hap") Arnold C6  
 Stephen F. Austin 776  
 Abraham Baldwin 798  
 John Barry 790  
 Noah Bartlett 120  
 John Blair, Jr. 798  
 Simon Bolivar 1110-11  
 David Brearly 798  
 Jacob Broome 798  
 James Buchanan 820, 1081  
 Luther Burbank 876  
 George Campbell, U.S. Revenue R292  
 Daniel Carroll 798  
 George Rogers Clark 651  
 William Clark 1063  
 Henry Clay 227, 259, 309

Samuel L. Clemens 863  
 DeWitt Clinton, U.S. Revenue  
 Johnathan Dayton 798  
 Stephen Decatur 791  
 John Dickinson 798  
 Stephen A. Douglas 1115  
 William Ellery 120  
 David Farragut 311, 792  
 George L. Fox 956  
 Benjamin Franklin  
 (See list in M.P. April 1958)  
 Robert Fulton\* Hungary C55  
 James A. Garfield 205, 224, 256, 305,  
 558, 825  
 Giuseppe Garibaldi 1168-69  
 Horatio Gates 644  
 Walter F. George 1170  
 Elbridge Gerry 120  
 Nicholas Gilman 798  
 Samuel Gompers 988  
 Nathaniel Green 785  
 James Guthrie, U.S. Revenue R306A  
 Nathan Hale\* 551  
 Lyman Hall 120  
 Alexander Hamilton\* 143, 629, 798,  
 1053, 1086  
 John Hancock 120  
 Warren G. Harding 553, 610, 684, 833  
 Patrick Henry\* 1052  
 Joseph Hewes 120  
 William Hooper 120  
 Sam Houston 776  
 Samuel Huntington 120  
 Andrew Jackson 73, 135, 211, 220, 253,  
 302, 786, 812, 941  
 Thomas ("Stonewall") Jackson\* 788  
 Thomas Jefferson\* 120, 139, 228, 260,  
 310, 324, 561, 807, 1011, 1033  
 Andrew Johnson 822  
 John Paul Jones 790  
 Rufus King 798  
 Thaddeus Kosciuszko 734  
 Lajos Kossuth 1117-18  
 Henry Knox 854  
 Lafayette 1010, 1097  
 John Langdon 798

Richard Henry Lee 120, 854  
 Meriwether Lewis 1063  
 Morgan Lewis 854  
 Charles A. Lindbergh, Spain C56  
 Philip Livingston 120  
 Robert R. Livingston 323, 854, 1020  
 Crawford W. Long 875  
 Douglas MacArthur, Philippines 519-20-21  
 Thomas MacDonough 791  
 James Madison\* 262, 312, 808  
 Daniel Manning, U.S. Revenue RV42/53  
 George Catlett Marshall, Germany Oct. 16 '60  
 John Marshall 263, 313, 1050  
 James McHenry 798  
 Thomas McKean 120  
 William McKinley 326, 559, 829  
 Paul V. McNutt, Philippines 512/14  
 Andrew W. Mellon 1072  
 James Monroe 325, 562, 810, 1020, 1038, 1105  
 Daniel Morgan 644  
 Robert Morris\* 120, 798, 1004  
 Thomas Nelson, Jr. 120  
 James Edward Oglethorpe 726  
 Robert Treat Paine 120  
 William Paterson 798  
 John Penn 120  
 Matthew C. Perry 1021  
 Albert Pike "on early U.S. Revenue stamp"  
 James K. Polk 816  
 Casimir Pulaski 690  
 Rufus Putnam 795  
 Paul Revere 1048  
 Will Rogers 975  
 Franklin D. Roosevelt 930-31-32-33  
 Theodore Roosevelt 557, 830, 856, 1011, 1039, 1023, 1122  
 Benjamin Rush 120  
 Jose San Martin 1125-26  
 Winthrop Sargent 955  
 Winfield Scott Schley 793  
 Winfield Scott 153, 786  
 John Sevier 941  
 Roger Sherman 120, 798, 854  
 John Philip Sousa 880  
 Edwin M. Stanton 138  
 Baron von Steuben 689, 854  
 Richard Stockton 120  
 John Sullivan 657  
 William H. Taft 685, 831  
 Matthew Thornton 120  
 Harry S. Truman, Brazil 673, Ecuador 558, C231-32  
 George Walton 120  
 Booker T. Washington (Prince Hall) 873, 1074  
 George Washington (See list in M.P. March 1958)  
 Anthony Wayne 680  
 William Whipple 120  
 John Witherspoon 120  
 Brigham Young\* 950

### MASONIC STAMP ALBUMS

Secretary Fred Gommo reports that he has received many requests for information concerning availability of specialized Masonic Stamp Albums. In reply to inquiry, one of our memb dealers, Bro. C. O. Clausen, 746 Fort sixth Avenue, San Francisco, California, has sent him a folder describing two fine albums for postage stamps with Masonic significance. They are loose-leaf bindings attractive covers with gold lettering; pages 8½"x11". Description of each is as follows:

Album for U.S. Stamps (\$3.00 Post-paid).

This book has 90 pages. Most of the stamps for which spaces are provided are U.S. Portrait Issues which bear the likenesses of Masons, but included are pages for numerous U.S. stamps which do not portray Masons, yet which have definite Masonic significance. Historical data and the Masonic background is given for each group of stamps. Stamps honoring Masons include issues for Benjamin Franklin, Henry Clay, Alexander Hamilton and Nathan Hale. An example of other stamps of Masonic importance is the Statue of Liberty Commemorative. The Statue of Liberty, presented to the United States by the people of France, was designed by a Mason, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, and the base of the statue was laid with Masonic ceremonies by the Grand Lodge of New York on August 5, 1884.

Album for Foreign Stamps (\$4.00 Postpaid).

A companion book to the Album for U.S. Stamps and has 121 pages devoted to Masons of Foreign Countries who have been honored by the issuance of postage stamps in their memory. Many of these persons have been rulers, among which are several kings of England, Denmark, Sweden and Germany. Two Hawaiian kings are also included. Musical composers include Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Sibelius. A Honduras stamp bears the picture of the Masonic Temple of Tegucigalpa. Ten Cubans are included. The first President of the Republic of Iceland, Sveinn Bjornsson, Grand Master of Icelandic Freemasonry appears on a stamp issued in 1952. Freemasonry has had an important effect upon the history of South America and a large number of Latin American patriots and Masons appear on the postage stamps of these countries.

Bro. Gommo passes this data along for the information of the members, and not as a sales promotion. He recommends these albums. It is noted that they are also listed on the latest

pricelist of dealer-member, Elmer R. Long of 112 Market Street, Harrisburg, Penna. Possibly others may stock them, so, in the interest of impartiality we suggest that you consult your favorite member-dealer if you are interested in purchasing either one or both of the albums. Bro. Gomme states that he could not write directly to some of those who had requested this information as he did not save their names; hence he suggested this means of communication to all interested.



**HARRY M. KONWISER**

It is with deep regret that we announce the departure on January 29, 1961 of Brother Harry M. Konwiser from the Masonic Home at Utica, New York to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

He was born September 4, 1879 in Newark, New Jersey. He was a life member of Justice Lodge #753, F. & A. M. of New York, where he was initiated February 8, 1919; passed March 22, 1919 and raised April 12, 1919. He had been active in all Lodge affairs, but steadily declined all honors except that of Trustee, which office he held for many years.

In the business world his first job was with one of the Newark newspapers. Later he was a traveling auditor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After a venture in the cigar business in New York City, he entered publishing field. At various times he had papers for the Cigar Trade, Radio and Hotels. Eventually, he got into stamp work exclusively. Much of his work then was preparing catalogs for auction sales and appraisals of philatelic properties.

He is best known in the field of philately for his pioneer studies in postal history and his contributions to the literature of that field. United

States stampless covers came into their own because Bro. Konwiser developed a classification system for them and created a priced catalog for the guidance of collectors interested in postal markings of the pre-adhesives period.

The first edition of his "United States Stampless Cover Catalog" was issued in 1936. Appearance of this book brought so many additional items to light that he edited subsequent additions in 1938, 1942, 1947 and the current issue in 1952.

This Catalog created an interest in and a market for covers of the pre-stamp era, in which field there had previously been but little philatelic interest. He also edited one edition of a catalog of Canada and Newfoundland stampless covers.

His studies in the history of the postal service during Colonial and Revolutionary periods led to numerous articles in the stamp papers, subsequently incorporated in "Colonial and Revolutionary Posts" which remains the standard work in that field.

Another monograph which is a standard work in its field is his "Texas Republic Postal System," published in 1935. An additional significant contribution to philatelic literature was the "American Philatelic Dictionary" published in 1947 and issued in a revised edition in 1949 as the "American Stamp Collectors Dictionary."

He edited the early editions of Sanabria's Airpost Catalog and, for a time, was editor of Sanabria's Airpost News. He also worked on several Scott catalogs.

Bro. Konwiser was a prolific contributor to the philatelic press and articles appeared under his by-line in virtually every stamp paper published in this country during the period 1920-1940. For many years he conducted Postal History and Markings columns in "Stamps" and "Western Stamp Collector" magazines.

He had been a member of the American Philatelic Society since 1924, and had been very active in the Collectors Club for many years, and had served for a time as its librarian.

His favorite philatelic organization was, perhaps, our own Masonic Stamp Club of New York, which he helped to organize in 1934, and where he had many close friends and associates. He was extremely active in our group over the many years until ill health necessitated his retirement. Brother Konwiser was the first editor of "The Masonic Philatelist," and had been active on our Board of Governors for several years, as Treasurer.

Brother Harry M. Konwiser was universally respected and admired by all of his fellow-members who were privileged to have been associated with him, not only for his vast technical and literary ability, but also for his warm personality, his extreme friendliness and his willingness at all times to assist those seeking information in the field of philately.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- MAYNARD L. BETTS**  
 13 Bundy Avenue  
 Auburn, New York  
 Seat Field 3-974 (Auburn)
- ARTHUR BRAVER**  
 89-11 63rd Drive  
 Rego Park 74, New York  
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 South Euclid 21, Ohio  
 Roseville #566 (Roseville, Ohio)
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- JOSEPH T. GRANAT**  
 7819 Jeffries  
 Cleveland #5, Ohio  
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- RUSSELL HAGANS**  
 18316 Newell Road  
 Shaker Hts. 22, Ohio  
 Coshocton #96 (Coshocton, Ohio)
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 4418 Montagano  
 Cleveland 21, Ohio  
 True Craftsman #651 (New York)
- JAMES R. LAMBERT**  
 20331 Wilmore Avenue  
 Cleveland 23, Ohio  
 Masters #675 (Cleveland)
- JOHN H. WOODHOUSE**  
 23 Beverly Court  
 Waupun, Wisconsin  
 Waupun #48 (Waupun)

**MASONS ON STAMPS**

**Henry Agard Wallace**

- Graduate of Iowa State College.  
 Agriculturist, author and politician.  
 Assoc. Editor Wallace's Farmer 1910-24; Editor 1924-29.  
 Secretary of Agriculture 1933-40.  
 Vice-President of U.S. 1941-45.  
 Editor of New Republic 1945-46.  
 Member of Capital Lodge #110, Des Moines, Iowa; also A.A.S.R.  
 Ecuador overprinted stamps of 1938 (Nos. 413-14-15, C102-3-4) "Bienvenido—Wallace; April 15, 1943; commemorating visit as Vice-President."  
 —Submitted by Walter R. Harbeson (from Masonic Biographical Sketches—Cerza).

**HORATIO GATES**  
 (1728-1806)



Horatio Gates, Major General of the Continental Army of the American Revolution, was a man who practiced the principles of Freemasonry.

He is shown on U.S. postage stamp No. 644, issued in 1927, commemorating the surrender of British general John Burgoyne on October 17, 1777, at Saratoga, New York.

The painting represents Gen. Burgoyne, attended by Gen. Phillips and followed by other officers, arriving near the marquee of Gen. Gates who has advance a few steps from the entrance to meet the prisoner who is in the act of offering his sword which Gates declines. A number of the American officers are assembled near the general. These include Major General Schuyler and Major General Arnold.

Horatio Gates was born at Maldon, England, in 1728. He began his military career in the British army where he was commissioned a major by King George II.

For a few years he was stationed in Nova Scotia. It is believed that he was a member of the regimental Masonic Lodge that existed at Annapolis Royal at that time.

Gates joined Braddock's army in Virginia in 1755 and later was severely wounded in the march on Fort Duquesne. On his recovery he purchased an estate in Berkeley County, Virginia, and married a lady of wealth.

When war broke out in 1775, Congress made Gates a brigadier general. In 1777 as major general he was given command of the northern army and with the assistance of major general Philip Schuyler and Benedict Arnold succeeded in the final defeat of the British forces from Canada under the leadership of Gen. Burgoyne.

At the close of the war, General Gates retired to his estate where he lived until 1790 when he moved to New York City. There he died April 10, 1806.—Marshall S. Loke, 56 Langford Road, Rochester 15, N.Y.