



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



John Sloss Hobart

Born:

May 6, 1738
Fairfield, CT

Received Commission:

April 12, 1798

**District of New York
service:**

1798-1805

Died:

February 4, 1805
New York, NY

John Sloss Hobart had no formal legal training. Both his father and grandfather were ministers. He graduated from Yale College in 1757 and then moved to New York City, where he met his wife. Having inherited land in Eaton's Neck, they moved to Huntington, Long Island sometime in 1764-1765. Hobart was active in revolutionary activities in Suffolk County and was a member of the Sons of Liberty, served on town and county committees of correspondence (1774); was a representative to four New York provincial congresses (1775 – 1777), as well as the Convention (1777) at which the New York Constitution was drafted. In 1788, Hobart was a representative to the New York ratifying convention for the federal Constitution.

John Hobart was a man of integrity, dedication to public service, patriotism and common sense. His character and experience led to his appointment to be a justice of the New York Supreme Court in 1777. When he reached the court's mandatory retirement age in 1798, he was elected to represent New York in the U.S. Senate. He served there only a few months, until he was appointed United State district judge for the District of New York.

Judge Hobart served on the District Court until his death in 1805. He was a layman among lawyers, and a revolutionary greatly respected for his common sense, integrity, and discerning decisions.

Sources:

Dictionary of American Biography. Dumas Malone, ed. (New York, N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons) (1932)

American National Biography Online

Biographical Directory of Federal Judges, available at <http://www.fjc.gov/>