



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Robert Troup

Born:

1757

Elizabethtown, NJ

Received Commission:

December 10, 1796

**District of New York
service:**

1796-1798

Died:

January 14, 1832

New York, NY

Robert Troup graduated from King's College (now Columbia University) in 1774. He read law in the office of Thomas Smith of Haverstraw, NY, and later with future Chief Justice of the United States John Jay. During the Revolutionary War, Troup served in the Continental Army, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. Congress appointed him Secretary of the Board of War (1778-1779), and then Secretary to the Board of Treasury (1779-1780).

Upon his return to civilian life, Troup completed his legal studies with future U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Peterson, and then opened a law practice in Albany and New York City. In 1786, he was elected to the New York State Assembly. He then became the first Clerk of the U.S. District Court for the District of New York. He held that office from 1789-1796, when he was appointed to the District Court as a judge.

Politically, Judge Troup favored a strong central government. He worked to get the U.S. Constitution ratified in New York State. Alexander Hamilton was a close friend.

Troup acquired various land holdings in Western New York, and in 1814 he made Geneva, NY, his permanent residence. As a Western New York resident, he was a strong proponent of the Erie Canal.

Sources:

DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY (Dumas Malone, ed., New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936)
Biographical Directory of Federal Judges, available at <http://www.fjc.gov/>

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES 1789-1800, at 156 (Maeva Marcus, et. al., eds., Columbia University Press, 1990)