

## Martin Euclid Thompson, 1787-1877

St. Andrew's Lodge No. 7. Br. Martin E. Thompson, Worshipful Master. [see appendix]

St. Andrew's Lodge No. 169 New York [chartered in 1771, at Boston, MA, by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, but transferred to New York in 1776;]; Chartered 13 Jul 1771; became No. 3 on 9 Jun 1789 and became No. 7 at renumbering of Lodge on 4 Jun 1819; 'abandoned' 1827.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=44649344>

Architect. One of the founders in 1826 of the National Academy of Design, Martin Thompson earned a reputation for his architectural skills but also did some waterscape and landscape paintings. He submitted drawings for exhibition to the Academy. In 1827, he was a partner with Ithiel Town, prominent New York architect. As a young man in New York City, Thompson had worked as a carpenter. Architectural commissions included the 2nd Bank of the United States and the Merchants Exchange Building. He spent his retirement at Glen Cove on Long Island, and died there in 1877.

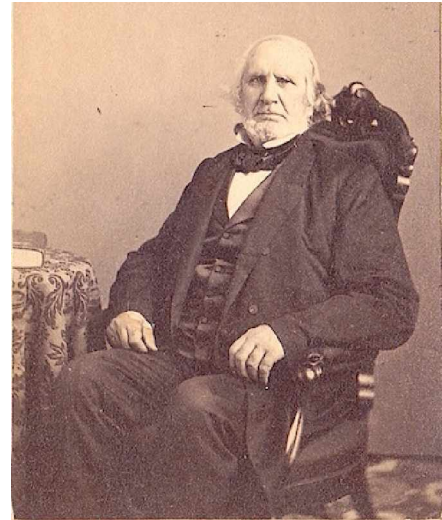
Spouse:

[Mary Kittell Thompson \(1788 - 1864\)](#)

Child:

[Edwin Belknap Thompson \(1831 - 1888\)](#)

Burial: [Green-Wood Cemetery](#) Brooklyn



<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/p/o/p/Sandra-Popiel/BOOK-0001/0229-0026.html>

Mary 'Polly' Kittell (*Phoebe/Phoebe<sup>5</sup> Farrand, Ebenezer<sup>5</sup>, Hannah<sup>4</sup> Wheeler, Patience<sup>3</sup> Holbrook, Richard<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) b. 4 Oct 1788 in Hanover Neck, Morris, NJ; d. 9 Feb 1864; m. 10 Feb 1810 Martin E Thompson, b. 15 Apr 1787; d. 26 Jul 1877.

Children:

- i. Elizabeth Allen b. 12 Jan 1811; d. 05 May 1836; m. Henry Beach.
- ii. Susan Louise b. 03 Oct 1812; m. George James Prince.
- iii. Matilda b. 30 Nov 1814; m. Eliab Tompkins.
- iv. Aaron Kittell b. 08 Sep 1817; d. 16 Feb 1873; m. Grace Worthington.
- v. Charles Augustus b. 11 Oct 1819; d. 19 Jan 1822.
- vi. William Potter b. 14 Jan 1822; m. Priscilla Amoreaux.
- vii. Mary Emma b. 22 Jul 1824; m. Jabez Munsell.
- viii. Charles Augustus b. 19 Nov 1827.
- ix. Jacob Martin b. 13 Feb 1829; d. 23 Dec 1829.
- x. Edwin Belknap b. 04 Feb 1831; m. Helen E. Osborne.
- xi. Henrietta Elizabeth b. 06 Nov 1834.

----

The New York Masonic Outlook, Vol. VII, No. 1, Sep 1930, page 22.

### A Great Builder

by D. McGregor, Historian, Grand Lodge of New Jersey

Martin Euclid Thompson, architect and builder, though he lived in New Jersey, yet is of great interest to New York Masons. The name Thompson is closely identified with the history of Elizabeth, New Jersey, since its settlement. Martin was the fifth generation descended from Thomas Thompson, who came there from Hampton, Long Island, about 1664.

He was born 10 Apr 1787 at Connecticut Farms, a small village to the west of Elizabeth, where his father was schoolmaster, and particularly noted as a mathematician. Martin was but five years old when his father met a tragic death by his own hand, during a period of temporary aberration, brought on by excessive application to his favorite study, Mathematics – his keen interest in the subject is seen in the fact that he gave the name Martin *Euclid* to his oldest son.

At the age of twelve Martin went to Elizabeth, where he served an apprenticeship to the building and carpentry trade, after which he moved to New York City, where he applied himself so assiduously to the study of architecture that in 1823 his name appears in the City directory as a professional architect. His first important work was the design and erection of a bank building at 15 Wall Street, adjoining the Sub-Treasury, which was completed and occupied by the United States Bank in 1824. This building eventually came

into the service of the Federal Government as an Assay Office, by which name it was known, until its removal in 1914, to be replaced by a more modern and commodious building.

Through the efforts of Robert W. DeForest, President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, its façade was carefully removed, each stone numbered . . . and re-erected as part of the south wall of the new American wing of the magnificent building.

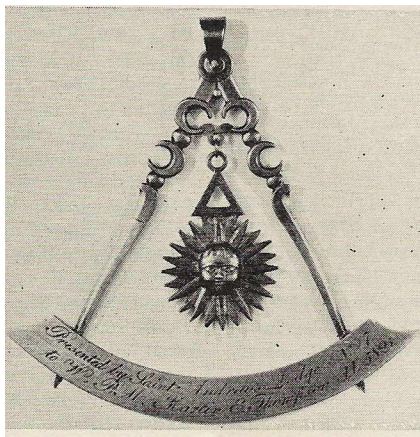
Among other public buildings he designed and erected the old City Hall, the First Presbyterian Church at Fifth Avenue and Twelfth Street, the Arsenal at Central Park, and the State Prison at Sing Sing. He changed the Middle Dutch Church into the old Post Office and the Deaf and Dumb institute into Columbia College and built the Hanover and the Tradesmen's Banks.

Realizing keenly from his own experience the advantages and desirability of enlarging the educational facilities for the study of the Arts and Sciences, he readily lent his valuable aid and support in their promotion. He was an original member of the Academy of Sciences, and in 1826 was chosen one of the executive body of the newly organized National Academy of Arts, under the Presidency of Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph.

When the American Institute was organized in 1826 for the promotion of Industry, Agriculture, Manufacture, Commerce and Arts, he became actively associated with it, was Vice-President of the Society for five years and devoted considerable of his time to its advancement by superintending its early Fairs and Exhibitions at the Masonic Hall and Niblo's Gardens.

In view of his chosen profession, and the zeal with which he promoted the study of the liberal arts and sciences, it is not surprising to learn that he early became a member of the Masonic Fraternity. He joined St. Andrew's Lodge No. 7, the third oldest Lodge in the City, and one the figured large in the organization of New York State. Originally known as No. 169 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England, it was given its rightful place as No. 3 in the rearrangement of the Lodge in 1789. Thirty years later it was changed to No. 7, and continued to hold its regular meetings at Tammany Hall, corner of Frankfort and Park Row, until 30 Dec 1834, when it was dissolved. The notification of this act sent to Grand Lodge was signed by W.'. Bro. Thompson and two other members, showing that he had stuck to it to the last.

He married Mary [Kitchell], daughter of Senator Aaron Kitchell of NJ; she died in 1864 and he in 1865, leaving two sons and four daughters to mourn their loss. Through the courtesy of a member of the fraternity and a descendant of his, we are privileged to illustrated this brief sketch of a noted member of St. Andrew's Lodge, with a picture of the Past Master's Jewel presented to him in 1821, having served the Lodge faithfully in the various stations, and presided over its activities as Master in 1820.



PM Jewel, inscribed  
*Presented by Saint Andrews Lodge No. 7  
to W. P. M. Martin E. Thompson, A. L. 5821.*

-----



The Central Park Arsenal photographed in 1911

<http://www.glencoveheritage.com/martinethompson.pdf>

**Martin Euclid Thompson**  
**1786 - 1877**  
**Architect and Painter**

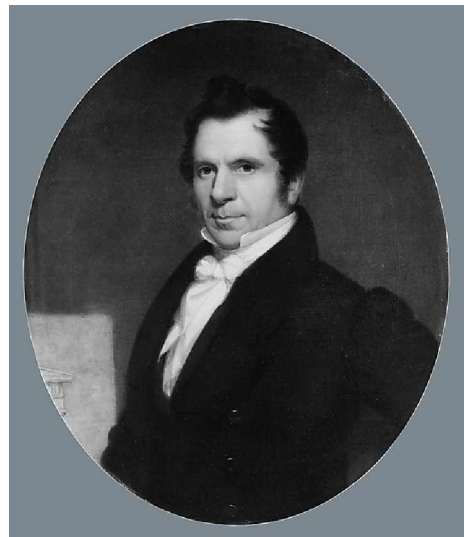
by Daniel E. Russell, City Historian  
Glen Cove, New York

Martin Euclid Thompson started his career as a carpenter and builder before becoming a student of New York City architect Joseph R Brady.

One of Thompson's earliest documented commissions was the design of the New York City branch of the Bank of the United States, located at 15½ Wall Street. The building was completed in 1824, when Thompson was only 28 years old. After President Andrew Jackson abolished the Bank of the United States, the magnificent edifice would become the United States Assay Office for Manhattan. [When the Assay Office was slated for demolition in 1924, Robert W deForest undertook the preservation of the building's façade. It was moved, stone by stone, to Central Park and reassembled to become the south façade of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's American Wing – where it can still be enjoyed today.]

The corner stone of this chaste edifice was laid in the spring of 1822; but owing to the epidemic scourge with which the city was visited, and by which its lower section was totally depopulated in the autumn of that memorable year, its progress was so much retarded, that it was not completed until the spring of 1824. It was first opened for the transaction of business on the fourteenth of April in that year.

The building is of white marble, from the quarries of Westchester, and was designed and erected by Mr. Martin E. Thompson. It shows a front of sixty feet, in Wall-street, and is about seventy feet deep, occupying a lot that cost nearly as much as the edifice itself, viz. forty thousand dollars. The building is constructed in the most substantial manner, and is fire-proof throughout. Besides the banking room, (which is thirty feet in height, and surrounded with a gallery) there are apartments for the accommodation of directors, stockholders, &c., with others occupied as a loan-office, the payment of United States pensioners, &c. The gallery, vestibule, and portico, add much to the beauty of the structure. (NY Mirror, 1829)





### The New York City Branch of the Bank of the United States

In 1826, Thompson was one of the founding members of the National Academy of Design, an honorary organization intended to “promote the fine arts in America through instruction and exhibition” composed of some of the most pre-eminent artists and designers in the nation.

His next major project was the design of the New York Merchant’s Exchange, completed in 1827. One critic commented that “in beauty and richness the building had no peers in the city. It was dignified, simple and commodious.”

This truly noble and extensive building is situated in Wall street, below William-street, and extends southward one hundred and fifty feet to Exchange street. It presents a front on William-street, of one hundred and fifteen feet, and three stories in height, exclusive of the basement, which is considerably elevated. Its southwest front, in Exchange-street, is one hundred and fourteen feet long, and also three stories high, including the basement story, which is only one step above the pavement. The Wall-street front is the principal one, and is built entirely of white marble, from the quarries of Westchester. The first and second stories comprise but one order, which is the ionic, from the temple of Minerva Polios, at Priene, in Ionia. A recessed portico of about forty feet wide, in an elliptical form, has been introduced in front, to great advantage, both as it regards convenience and appearance. A screen of four stupendous columns and two antic, extends across the front of the portico, nearly in a line with the front of the building. These columns are thirty feet high, and three feet four inches in diameter above the base.

The shaft of each column is composed of a single block of marble. The columns support an entablature of about six feet in height, upon which rests the attic, or third story -, making a height of about sixty feet from the ground. Beneath, on each side of the portico, is a passage through the basement story to the post-office and Exchange-street.

The principal entrance to the exchange-room, is by a flight of nine or ten broad marble steps, finished with a pedestal at each end. On ascending to the portico, three doors open to the vestibule in front, while one on either hand open into insurance offices, &c. &c. The vestibule is of the ionic order, after the most chaste and finished style, from the little ionic temple of Illyssus—being the most ancient structure known of that order. The exchange-room is eighty-five feet in length, fifty-five feet wide, and forty five feet high. Adjacent to this apartment, are the publication offices of three morning papers, viz. the Daily Advertiser, the Courier and Enquirer, and the Morning Herald; to the latter establishment is attached a very extensive reading-room, in which can be found most of the political and commercial journals of the United States.

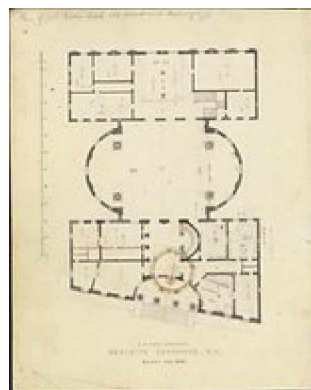
In the second story is a saloon for sales at auction of merchandize by the package; also a room for the board of brokers and the chamber of commerce. On the whole, without entering into a minute description, we pronounce this building an honour and ornament to the city, and one that was long wanted for the convenience of our merchants.



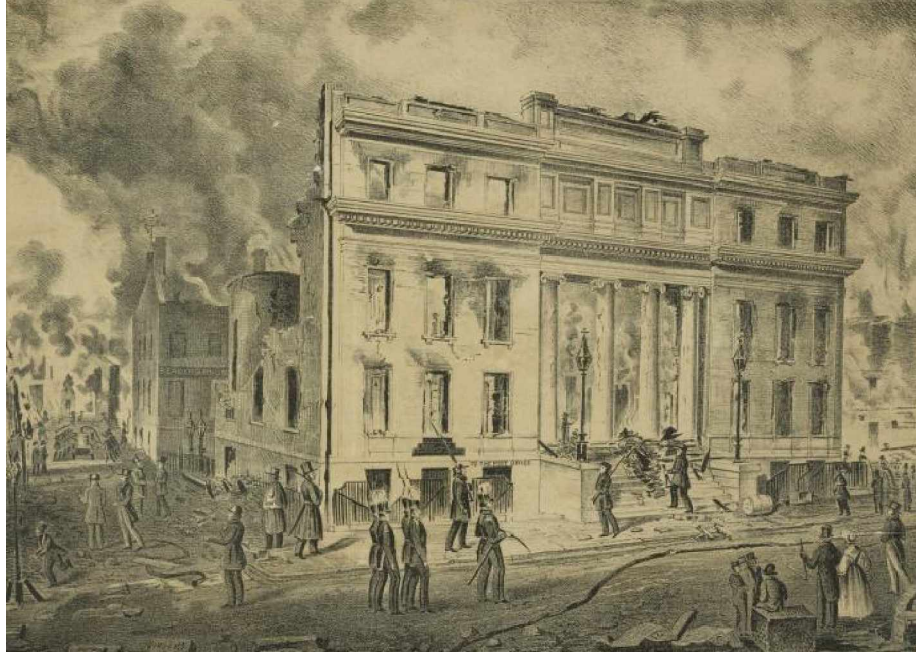
**The Merchants' Exchange, New York City**

It was commenced on the first day of April, 1825, and completed in July 1827. The plan was wholly that of M. E. Thompson, esq. the architect of the edifice.

Regretfully it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1835.



Floor plan of Main Floor



Ruins of the Merchant's Exchange N.Y. After the destructive conflagration of 16 & 17 Dec 1835; N. Currier's Press

Thompson briefly partnered with Ithiel Town, who was also a rising star in New York City's architectural circles. Exposure to Town's extensive collection of architectural engravings and library moved Thompson to embrace the Greek Revival style, which would be the hallmark of his designs for the next two decades.

Town and Thompson are believed to have collaborated on several designs, including the Church of the Ascension on Canal Street in 1828 and a brick tower and spire for St Mark's Church in the Bowery district. However, some contemporary writers only give Thompson credit for the two projects.

The New York Institute for the Blind was another of Thompson's important projects; the building was completed in 1841, and Thompson was also listed as "supervisor" of construction (for a fee of \$300), a position often given to architects to ensure that the contractors executed the approved design to specification. Another of his institutional designs was the Columbia Grammar School, which was built in 1829.

Not limiting himself to public structures, Thompson undertook a number of residential commissions in Manhattan. The mansion he designed for Robert Ray at 17 Broadway was considered to be among his finest works; it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1845. He designed the façades of a several residences on Murray St on land owned by Columbia University. Near the height of the Greek Revival craze he was engaged to design "Hawkswood," a 50 by 62 foot mansion in Pelham in the Bronx for **Elijah W. King**, a New York City attorney and assemblyman. Outside of New York City he designed "Evergreen," the Morristown, NJ, mansion of James E Colles, completed in 1838.



Marshall Mansion (Hawkswood)

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/about/history/before-they-were-parks>

## Elisha W. King and Hawksworth

Elisha W. King, b. 19 Mar 1781, Lyme, CT; d. 3 Dec 1836, was Grand Master of Masons for the City Grand Lodge, 1826-27.

The History of Long Island, from Its Discovery to the Present Time," Vol. II. 1843, by Benjamin Franklin Thompson  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=B2DAoCLbdoC&pg=PA524&lpg=PA524&dq=%22elisha+w+king%22&source=web&ots=kpEgW-V5\\_1&sig=Dzp-gdM5wUPC0mJSw1ZuGBLjAOs](http://books.google.com/books?id=B2DAoCLbdoC&pg=PA524&lpg=PA524&dq=%22elisha+w+king%22&source=web&ots=kpEgW-V5_1&sig=Dzp-gdM5wUPC0mJSw1ZuGBLjAOs)

Elisha W. King, Esq. - This gentleman, who so lately ranked among the most eminent members of the New York bar, and whose private character was as pure as his professional talents were conspicuous, was the son of Jeremiah, grandson of William, and great-grandson of John King, who emigrated from England to Salem, MA, in 1650, came to Long Island in 1654, and settled at Southampton, from whence he removed to Southold in 1664, after the conquest of New Netherlands by the English. His wife was Frances Ludlow, whom, it is believed, he married in New England, and by whom he had issue three sons, John, Samuel and William, and six daughters. These sons purchased a part of Oyster Ponds, where they settled. Jeremiah (b. Sep 1737; d. 8 Jan 1819 at Southold), one of the sons of the said William, married Deborah Dominy of Easthampton (b. 5 Aug 1744; d. 20 May 1806 at Southold), by whom he had nine sons, one of whom, [Elisha W.], was the youngest one. He was b. 19 Mar 1781 at Lyme, CT, whither his father and his family had been driven by the British troops, then in possession of Long Island. Most of his elder brothers were sea-faring men, and he likewise manifested a strong propensity for the same employment. And although his parents were disinclined to listen to his wishes in this respect, he resolved to accompany one of his brothers, then about to set out upon a distant voyage. For this purpose, he traveled to New York, and went, with his brother, to the office of Francis Lynch, Esq., a practising lawyer in that city, to have some necessary papers drawn for his protection as an American citizen, in case of capture. His personal appearance made such a favorable impression upon Mr. Lynch, as induced him to request the brother to leave the youth with him, till he should return from the present voyage, when, if still inclined to the seas, he might accompany him on the next.

The boy was then but twelve years old, and his new friend treated him with so much kindness and affection, that he became attached to him, and was, at the time, so much pleased with reading law, that he abandoned all thoughts of the sea, and resolved to make the law his profession. For the more than parental attention of his excellent instructor, Mr. King was ever most grateful, and always spoke of his professional preceptor with affectionate respect. So assiduously did he apply himself to his juridical studies, and so great was his proficiency, that at the age of nineteen years, he felt himself qualified to pass an examination, for admission to the bar. But the rules of the supreme court required all candidates for this purpose to be of the age of 21 years.

In this emergency, Mr. King applied for direction and advice to his friend, the late Col. Richard Varick, a veteran lawyer of the day, stating his wishes, and the obstacle that presented to prevent their gratification. The answer he received from the venerable counselor, reminded him that the first duty of a lawyer was to keep council, to which he added, "keep your own council, and if no one asks your age, you need not disclose it."

It is almost needless to say that this sage advice was strictly obeyed, and the applicant was admitted to the bar in the year 1800. At twenty years of age, **he married Margaret Vanervoort\* (b. ca 1775; d. 14 Apr 1863), daughter of Peter Vandervoort of Bedford, Westchester Co., Long Island**, a gentleman of great respectability, and who had frequently represented Kings county, in the legislature of the state. Perhaps no event in the life of Mr. King, more advanced his happiness and success, than this first and most important one. By this means, he not only became connected with a family of great influence, but found a companion every way qualified to aid his onward course to reputation and fortune. She even assisted him in copying papers, when the urgency of his professional business made it necessary, and he ever found her, as she should be, his first, best friend in every emergency.

As an industrious and sound lawyer, Mr. King rose rapidly into public notice, and acquired in a short time a high reputation, and a profitable professional business. He was highly esteemed for his integrity, and a nice sense of honor, in all his engagements, and strict fidelity to the interests of his employers. Few men possessed a more pleasing or effective elocution, and his persuasive eloquence procured him great success before a jury of his fellow citizens. His personal appearance was highly prepossessing, and he possessed a voice which was harmony itself.

The late Hon. John T. Irving, whose acquaintance with Mr. King, for more than 30 years, was of the most intimate kind, and a person well qualified to judge, thus speaks of his friend. "Mr. King's mind (says he) was of a varied character; for although his education had been limited, he had a natural taste for works of art, and possessed a genius which was original and refined. This appeared especially in his pleadings at the bar, which displayed great force and originality of thought. There was nothing common place about him; he won the respect of his competitors by the great strength and resources of his intellect. Besides this vigor of understanding, which appeared to enlighten whatever it touched, his life was marked by a purity of purpose and by a spirit which was above every thing that was groveling and mercenary. He was a liberal practitioner, pursuing it with an elevation of mind, and a courtesy of manner toward his brethren of the bar, which soon obtained their confidence and esteem, and which he never lost. Industrious, persevering, temperate and frugal, his reputation increased, and wealth flowed in upon him with an unfailling stream. "Riches altered him not; they only enabled him to follow out more fully the benevolent impulses of his heart; his charity was ' fertile as the Nile's dark waters, undiscovered as their source.' And many objects of his bounty knew not whence relief came, until death stopped the source."

The services of Mr. King in the municipal councils of the city, will long be remembered. Elected by no party, he was the representative of his ward. Firm, judicious, independent and conscientious, he was swayed by no selfish motive; unfettered by party trammels, he followed the dictates of his own good sense, in the discharge of all his public duties. He was elected assistant alderman of the fourth ward in 1810, and was continued till 1816, when he was chosen to the legislature. He was afterwards elected alderman, and to the assembly again in 1825. One of the most important and exciting questions discussed in the common council, while he was a member, was that of the law which prohibited interments in the city, in which he took a prominent and decided stand in favor of the act; and he lived to see it established, with the approbation of a great majority of citizens. The dignity

and sanctity of the pulpit, the talents of the medical profession, the rights of property, the prejudices and sympathies of the people, and the power of family pride, were arrayed against the law and its advocate; and though he strongly sympathized with those who desire, " when life's fitful dream is o'er," to repose with their kindred dead, yet he was not moved from his purpose, considering the safety of the living of more value than a regard for the last resting place of those who die.

In 1829 he relinquished his profession, and removed to his country seat in Westchester county, where he remained till Nov 1836, when, being attacked by disease, he came to the house of his son Dr. Theodore F. King of Brooklyn for medical relief, where he breathed his last on the 3d of Dec. following, leaving a widow and several children.

\* See <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~conover/conover-p/p1524.htm> for ancestry of his wife.

"The Freemasons' Monthly Magazine," Volume XIII. by Charles Whitlock Moore, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Boston. 1854. Page 347.  
<http://books.google.com/books?id=CCUsAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA347&dq=%22elisha+w.+king%22#PPA347,M1>

#### AN INTERESTING RELIC

Vergennes, August 17, 1854.

CHARLES W. MOORE, Esq.—Dear Sir and Br:—I have thought the following incidents might possess interest enough for publication.

A few months since Mrs. Ann Maria Sherman, of this city, presented to me, as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, a very splendid MASTER'S APRON, for which, as well on my own behalf as that of my Brethren, I desire to make this public acknowledgment.

Mrs. Sherman is the wife of Captain Iahaziel Sherman, of this city, and **the daughter of Elisha W. King, Esq.**, formerly Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York.

Brother King became a Mason as early as 1801, and was Grand Master of New York, in 1826 and 1827. **He took the degrees of Knighthood at the same time with Gen. Lafayette, during the visit of that Brother to this country in 1825.**

During Brother King's Grand Mastership, **Br. John Jacob Astor** presented him with the Apron which Mrs. Sherman has now presented to me. It was sent to Br. King with a letter of which the following is a copy, and the original of which was presented me with the Apron and is now in my possession.

"DEAR SIR:—I take the liberty to send you an Apron, which I hope you will do me the favor to accept, and to believe me to be, very respectfully,

Dear sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

E. W. KING, Esq.

April 18, 1827."

Brother King resigned the office of Grand Master in June, 1827, in favor of Br. Stephen Van Rensselaer, and on that occasion the following proceedings were had in the Grand Lodge of New York, as appears by an original copy from the records now in my possession.

Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

On motion - *Resolved*, That the R. W. Oliver M. Lownds, R. W. Welcome Esleek, and the W. Brs. Lebbeus Chapman, Henry Marsh and John O. Cole, be a committee to convey to the M. W. P. G. M. Elisha W. King, the thanks of this Grand Lodge for the able and disinterested manner in which he has discharged the duties of the Chair, and to request his acceptance of a piece of plate, with a suitable inscription, in testimony of the high respect entertained for his services.

O. M. LOWNDS, G. Secretary.

Grand Master King died on the first of December, 1836, and it gives me great pleasure to be able to preserve this evidence of the high esteem in which he was held by his Brethren.

The Apron presented is precisely such an one as such a man as Brother Astor might be expected to present to his Masonic Brother and personal friend—rich but not tawdry. It is wrought wholly by the needle in silk and gold and silver tissue, upon a beautiful satin, with a very choice selection of Masonic emblems. It is not overloaded, and the selection seems to me to be made in the purest Masonic taste. The All-Seeing Eye is more perfect than any thing I have ever seen accomplished by needle-work; the coffin is perfect; the sprig of acacia appears as if just plucked from its native tree, and it is difficult to convince ones self that the three lesser lights are not actually burning.

Most Fraternally yours,

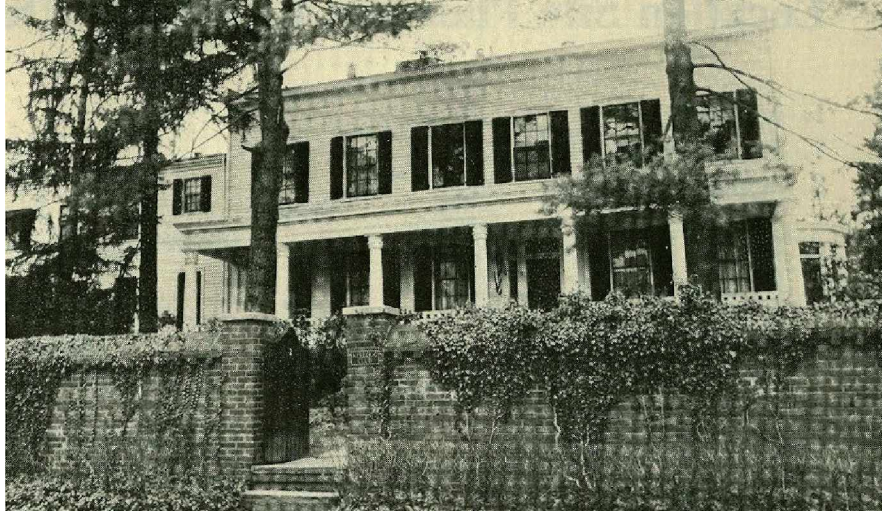
PHILIP C. TUCKER.

Peter Ross. 1899. page 304:

John O. Cole (Country) renominated **Elisha W. King** as Grand Master, but the nomination was declined, and Brother King put in nomination Stephen Van Rensselaer, who was at once elected.

With the appointment of **Elisha W. King**, John W. Mulligan, and Elisha Gilbert as a committee to notify General Van Rensselaer of his election, the great union meeting adjourned until the following day. The united Grand Lodge duly assembled on the morning of June 8th, and as under the circumstances much important business had to be done, the sessions continued until the 12th, but, although there was a vast amount of discussion and many perilous matters came up for action, the whole passed over without the slightest friction and with a gratifying display of brotherly sentiment on all sides.

----



<http://www.wammc.org/getattachment/Mansion-in-May/Mansions-Past/Evergreens.pdf.aspx>

### Evergreens

On 14 Oct 1836, **Martin E. Thompson**, a prominent New York architect, contracted to design and build a summer cottage for James E. Colles and his family – Evergreens. The only Greek Revival house ever built in Morristown, Evergreens was completed in 1838. Evergreens was originally located about one-quarter mile from its current location. Intended as a summer home, it is reminiscent of a southern plantation with the large three story stairwell designed to keep the house cool. In the fall of 1886, the 50-yearold house was moved to its current location. The Colles family sold their Morristown holdings in the 1890s and in 1916, the homestead and its 3.3 acres were acquired by Cornelia and Frederick Kellogg. Kellogg was a Mayflower descendent and one-time law partner of Charles Evans Hughes. Additions to the home comprised of two large wings that included the large dining room (and rooms above), the kitchen and servants' rooms. The front faced was extended to its present length and a brick wall was put in place to ensure privacy. The Kellogg family occupied their homestead until the death of Mrs. Kellogg in 1967. One year later it was sold to neighboring homeowners and is now operated as the Kellogg Club. It is listed on the New Jersey Register of historical homes and was the location of Mansion in May 1986.

Thompson was given the opportunity to design several buildings for the Federal government. These were the United States Naval Hospital at the Navy Yard in Brooklyn (constructed between 1831 and 1838). In January of 1831, Thompson had written to the Navy:

I will furnish all the materials, and construct a three story brick hospital, with a blue stone basement, two feet thick, with twelve-inch outside brick walls, partition walls eight inches thick, slate roof and copper gutters, hard finished walls, and a small iron grate in each room, the building to be properly timbered with floors of white pine, planed and grooved, six-panel doors with seven-inch rim locks, sashes hung with weights, and wood work painted with two coats of white lead. (Anon, 1860)

He placed the cost of the center building at \$19,000, with each wing estimated at \$16,000, for a total cost of \$51,000.

He was also responsible for "Admiral's House" on Governor's Island (constructed in 1843). The latter has been preserved as part of the Governor's Island rehabilitation project.

In 1845, Thompson's design for the New York City Post Office was finally completed and opened to the public.

One major departure from Thompson's trade-mark Greek Revival style is The Arsenal in Central Park. Originally commissioned by the State of New York as a storehouse for weapons for the State Militia, the building was constructed in 1847 to 1851. Thompson abandoned Greek Revival to create an imposing classical military structure with turrets intended to evoke historic European fortifications. Its use as an arsenal was short lived; the City of New York seized the land it was on for public park space, and in 1857 bought the building from the State of New York. It subsequently served as a police precinct house; as home to a public menagerie of animals that was the precursor to the Central Park zoo; as home to the newly formed American Museum of Natural History (with part of the building being used as display space and part being used as a laboratory where dinosaur skeletons were assembled); an art gallery; and even as the home of the New York City Meteorology Bureau. Today the building serves as headquarters for the Parks Department.

One of Thompson's last works was the Tradesmen's Bank in New York City in 1861.

On the northwest corner of Broadway and Reade street a building has been, erected for the Tradesmen's Bank, and was completed by the 1st of May, 1861. The size of the building is 93 feet 2 inches on Broadway, and 98 feet 9 inches on Reade-street There are a sub-cellar, basement and four stories, surmounted by an enriched Corinthian entablature, with frieze windows, forming an attic or fifth story. The Reade-street front has a pediment over the centre. Both the fronts are built of white marble, and in the Palladian Italian style of architecture. The first story, to be occupied by the bank, is built of fire-proof materials, with iron beams and brick arches. This floor is approached from the street by a wide flight of marble steps, with balustrades and pedestals. The stairs to the second story are also of white marble. There is a back staircase of iron from the basement to the fifth story, to be used in connection with the hoistway, or in case of fire. All the stories above the bank have been already leased by a large importing firm, to be

occupied for mercantile purposes, &c, and are built as fire-proof as can be made with timber beams, and well deafened. The basement floor is six steps below the sidewalk, and will be leased either as a store or as offices. The building throughout will be heated by steam, and will cost about \$80,000, or, including the lot of ground, about \$200,000.

The architect for the above building is Mr. Martin E. Thompson. The new building was first occupied by the Tradesmen's Bank on Monday, June 24th. (Bankers Mag, 1861)

Thompson's daughter married George James Price, who had purchased "Dosoris", the sprawling estate of Rev. Benjamin Woolsey north of the village of Glen Cove, in 1850. Price died in 1861, leaving Susan in charge of the family's large farm. After Thompson's wife Mary died in 1864, he abandoned New York City to live with his daughter and help manage the farm. The urban architect adapted quickly enough to rural life that he was able to chair a roundtable discussion on commercial apple production in the same year at the American Institute's annual meeting.

In addition to his career as architect, Thompson was also a painter in both oil and watercolor; the author has seen several surviving landscapes attributed to him. The intriguing possibility that Thompson may have painted local scenes during his retirement here is worthy for further exploration; certainly his body of work bears further study.



"Cold Spring and West Point" by Martin E Thompson

When Thompson died in 1877, Rev. John Cavarly Middleton of St Paul's Episcopal Church in Glen Cove offered the following eulogy:

On the 24th of July Mr. Martin E. Thompson passed away in hope of the resurrection. He was ninety years of age, and until a year or two before his death a remarkably vigorous old man. As is usual with persons of great age he lived very much in the past. Indeed the past seemed to him more real than the present because he had been so active in it. For he had been a marked man in his younger days. As an architect, when architecture was in its infancy in America, he did noble work and left the impress of his art on many churches, banks, and public buildings whose fine proportions are silent witnesses today of the quality of his genius and the culture of his taste. He was repeatedly called to fill positions of honor, among which was one of which he might well be proud. For **it was he who was appointed by the Grand Lodge of Free Masons to welcome LaFayette to our shores** when at the invitation of Congress he returned as the nation's guest in 1824. When the weight of years pressed heavily upon him and his active life was over he retired to the home of one of his daughters in our midst, where he remained till his death the recipient of the tenderest filial care and Christian love.

#### Bibliography:

Anon. - 1860 Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States, Second Session of the Nineteenth to the Second Session of the Twenty-First Congress, Commencing January 13, 1827, and Ending March 1, 1831. Washington, 1860

Anon - 1864 Annual report of the American Institute of the City of New York New York 1864

Atkinson - 1831 Atkinson's Casket or Gems of Literature, Wit and Sentiment Number 10 (October 1831)

Bankers Mag - 1861 Tradesmen's Bank Bankers Magazine and Statistical Register Volume 11 (new Series) Number 1 (July, 1861)

Bell, Blake - 2006 "Hawkswood", Later Known as the Marshall Mansion on Rodman's Neck in Pelham (April 05, 2006) - Historic Pelham Website - <http://historicpelham.blogspot.com/2007/06/19thcentury-notice-of-executors-sale.html>

Bell, Blake - 2007 19th Century Notice of Executor's Sale of "Hawkswood" After Death of Elisha W. King (Thursday, June 28, 2007) - Historic Pelham Website - <http://historicpelham.blogspot.com/2007/06/19thcentury-notice-of-executors-sale.html>

Bell, Blake - 2010 Image of Hawkswood Published in 1831 (Friday, May 07, 2010)

Historic Pelham Website - <http://historicpelham.blogspot.com/2010/05/imageof-hawkswood-published-in-1831.html>

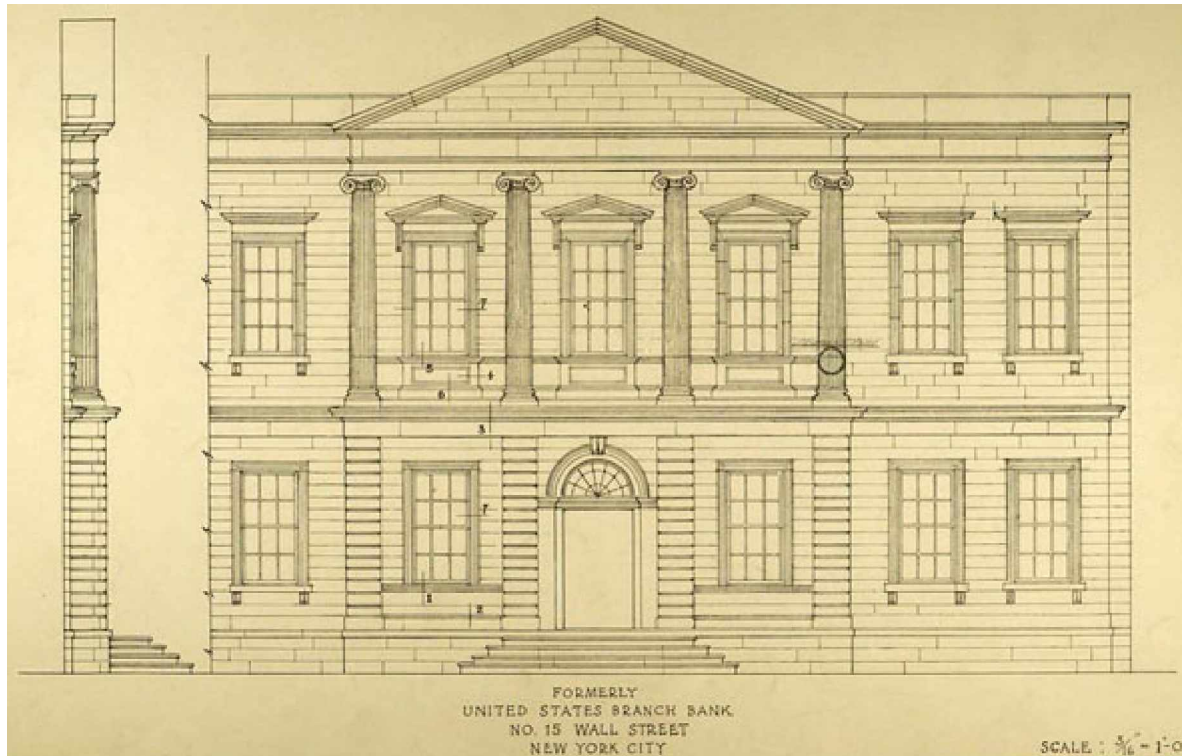
NY Mirror- 1829 Public Buildings - New York Mirror and Ladies Literary Gazette - Volume 7 Number 12 (27 September, 1829)

Randall, Samuel S. - 1842 Communication From the Acting Superintendent of Common Schools transmitting the Annual Report relative to the Institution for the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. Albany NY 1842.

-----  
<http://archiseek.com/2012/united-states-bank-new-york/>

**1824 – Bank of the United States, 15 Wall Street, New York**

**Architect: M. E. Thompson**



Constructed as the New York branch for the former Bank of the United States, and was designed by Martin Euclid Thompson, a noted artist and architect of the period. The building was completed in 1824, when Thompson was only 28 years old. After the Bank of the United States was abolished by President Andrew Jackson, the magnificent edifice would become the United States Assay Office for Manhattan. When the Assay Office was slated for demolition in 1924, Robert W. deForest preserved the building's façade, and moved it to Central Park where it became the south façade of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's American Wing.

"The building is of white marble, from the quarries of Westchester, and was designed and erected by Mr. Martin E. Thompson. It shows a front of sixty feet, in Wall-street, and is about seventy feet deep, occupying a lot that cost nearly as much as the edifice itself, viz. forty thousand dollars. The building is constructed in the most substantial manner, and is fire-proof throughout. Besides the banking room, (which is thirty feet in height, and surrounded with a gallery) there are apartments for the accommodation of directors, stockholders, &c., with others occupied as a loan-office, the payment of United States pensioners, &c. The gallery, vestibule, and portico, add much to the beauty of the structure." (NY Mirror, 1829)

-----  
Appendix

### St. Andrew's Lodge No. 7 as noted during the Morgan Affair

A Standard History of Freemasonry in the state of New York ..., Volume 1, by Peter Ross, page 365.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=GciAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA366&dq=%22st.+andrew's+Lodge%22+%22martin+e.+thompson%22&hl=en&sa=X&ei=jEovT5W9Ksrf0QGazpy6Aw&ved=0CEwQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22st.%20andrew's%20Lodge%22%20%22martin%20e.%20thompson%22&f=false>

While with the accession of Morgan Lewis a better feeling seemed to prevail in the craft and the efforts of Grand Secretary Herring in preserving the institution from further havoc were eminently successful, the bitterness of the Anti-Masonic party seemed only to increase with the passing of time and so for several years there is little to report of Freemasonry in the State of New York. The bulk of the business done at the successive meetings of the Grand Lodge was mainly formal and routine and a recital of it may be spared the reader. The efforts of Secretary Herring were directed not only to prevent any further breaches in the ranks, but to ascertain entirely the extent of the damage.

And first he strove to put the fraternity clear before the public as to its position on the Morgan abduction. In 1831 he introduced or caused to be introduced, the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, It has been alleged that an outrage has been committed on the body of William Morgan; and,  
Whereas, Proceedings in consequence of such allegations have been made in our courts of justice in relation to the subject; and,  
Whereas, By means of false representations an effort has been made to impress the public mind with an opinion that this Grand Lodge and the fraternity in general have attempted to screen, if not protect the perpetrators of this alleged outrage; therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to ascertain from the public records a statement of the facts in relation to the persons said to have been Masons, charged and convicted of the abduction of Morgan, and report to the Grand Lodge at the next annual communication.

This resolution was carried and the secretary collected the required data. In 1832 this material was submitted to a committee of five, but they were unable to formulate a report on account of the great mass of material it was necessary to read and consider, and requested more time. This was granted, but that seems to have ended the investigation, for by the time they were ready to report the bottom had dropped out of the Anti-Masonic conspiracy and the position of the fraternity was beginning to be clearly understood.

Grand Secretary Herring in his effort to preserve the remaining outposts of the institution and in strengthening those which remained found his task a hard and difficult one, one which, in fact, would have seemed impossible to a mind less strongly imbued with a firm belief in the inherent strength of Masonic principles. In 1832 no less than 107 warrants were declared forfeited, and 85 in 1834, while no Lodges were directed to show cause why they should not be similarly dealt with. Then most of the Lodges were unable to pay in full their arrears of Grand Lodge dues and had to be leniently dealt with, as, under the circumstances, they deserved to be, but some were contumacious. Some Lodges refused to deliver up their property when their warrants were withdrawn, others had it smuggled away so that it could not be seized, and some refused to meet or return the warrant, afraid, apparently, to touch Masonry in anyway. In 1835 twelve members of Watertown Lodge renounced all connection with Masonry in a communication to a newspaper, and for this they were expelled by the Grand Lodge in December of that year. But this result had so little effect that their example of using the public press to express their Anti-Masonic sentiments was soon after followed by 51 other members of the same Lodge and a like penalty was imposed.

Perhaps the most conspicuous instance of contumaciousness was furnished by **St. Andrew's Lodge No. 7**, one of the pioneer Lodges in the city and the most active and influential when the Grand Lodge was formed. In fact, as we have seen in an earlier part of this work, it was for a time the Grand Lodge, as the officers of that body under Walter were mainly taken from its ranks. On March 4, 1835, its members sent a letter to the Grand Lodge stating that they voluntarily surrendered their charter and that the Lodge had neither property nor jewels nor money. The letter was signed by **Cornelius Bogert\***, Joseph Hosie and **Martin E. Thompson**. It was found, however, that prior to sending the letter the brethren had distributed the funds of the Lodge among the poor members, had given their jewels and other property to a blind asylum, and destroyed their books and papers. This condition of affairs was transferred to the Grand Stewards and they finally reported that "while St. Andrew's Lodge had not technically violated the Constitution they had violated the spirit of the Masonic compact, inasmuch as they had given away Masonic funds which had been contributed by Masons for the relief of the Masonic poor and have left the poor of their own Lodge to suffer, some of whom have since been recommended by a part of these very same persons to the Grand Stewards for relief; they have made a mockery of Masonic charity by giving to an institution for the blind the jewels and other Masonic embellishments which to such an institution can be of no use." It was proposed at first to expel these contumacious St. Andrew's brethren, but ample apologies were offered, ignorance of Masonic law was pleaded and so harsh measures were not applied. . . .

\* Note: Cornelius Bogert was Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, 1816-1822.