

DIED,

In the Borough of Reading, Pennsylvania, on Thursday morning last, after a short illness, THOMAS OAKS, Esq. principal engineer in the service of the Schuylkill Navigation Company. He was a native of England, the son of John and Sarah Oaks, who resided at Ellistone Mills, near Uttoxeter, in Staffordshire. He was born on the 13th August, A. D. 1777. Under the celebrated Keith, who has written so extensively on trigonometry and the globe, he received a thorough education in mathematics and philosophy. Possessing a strong, clear, and inquisitive mind, he pursued those, and all collateral studies to a great extent, together with a practical application of those parts that are most useful in the general concerns of life. In mechanics and hydraulics, he has left few equals. In 1801 he emigrated to these United States, and settled soon after at Bloomfield, New Jersey. His science and mechanical skill soon commanded extensive and profitable business in that state and different parts of the Union, but especially in the State of New York. When the "Schuylkill Navigation Company" were about to commence their extensive and highly important operations, an Engineer of the first talents and experience was indispensable. Such an one Mr. Oaks was reported to be, and such an one they found him. In the spring of 1819 he commenced his laborious and difficult employment, which he continued almost uninterruptedly to the universal satisfaction of all concerned, until the 7th instant, when, after a ride up the line of canal towards Hamburg, he touched, and notwithstanding the most faithful and skilful medical attendance, continued to sink rapidly until the morning of the 14th; then, nature being exhausted, he yielded up his spirit to Him who gave it. He died on his birth day, aged exactly 46 years.