

## Joseph Inslee Anderson

(5 Nov 1757 – 17 Apr 1837)

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### Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Senator from Tennessee, born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 5, 1757; studied law; served throughout the Revolutionary War and attained the rank of brevet major; was admitted to the



**Joseph Inslee Anderson**

bar and practiced in Delaware for several years; appointed U.S. Judge of the Territory South of the River Ohio in 1791; member of the first constitutional convention of Tennessee; elected in 1797 to the U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy in the term ending March 3, 1799 caused by the expulsion of William Blount; again elected December 12, 1798 to fill the vacancy in the term ending March 3, 1799 caused by the resignation of Andrew Jackson; reelected in 1803; appointed and subsequently reelected in 1809 for the ensuing term and served continuously from September 26, 1797 to March 3, 1815; President pro tempore of the Senate Jan. 13, Feb. 28 and March 2, 1805; during the Madison administration was appointed First Comptroller of the Treasury and served from March 4, 1815 to January 1, 1836. He lived in retirement until his death in Washington, D.C., on April 17, 1837. Interred in Congressional Cemetery.

Father of Alexander Outlaw Anderson (Senator from Tennessee 1840-1841) and Pierce B. Anderson.

*The National Intelligencer, April 18, 1837*

At the residence of his son, in this city, yesterday, aged eighty years, the Hon. Joseph Anderson, late First Comptroller of the Treasury, an office which he had honorably filled for many years. The prime of his early life was spent in the service of his country; for he bore arms through the whole of the war of the Revolution. Some time after the close of the war, he removed from New Jersey, his native State, to Tennessee; and, soon after the admission of the latter State in the Union, he was chosen one of her Senators in Congress. Of the Senate he was a member for eighteen years, mostly during the Administrations of Presidents Jefferson and Madison, the confidence of both of whom, as well as of the body to which he belonged, he deservedly possessed in a high degree. He has left a number of descendants to mourn his loss and emulate his virtues.

Funeral notice -- The funeral of the Hon. Joseph Anderson, will take place on Tuesday, the 18th April, at 4 o'clock, from the house of his son, Mr. William Anderson, corner of G and 12th streets. His friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

*The National Intelligencer, April 20, 1837*

### **The Late Judge Anderson**

In our paper of Tuesday last we announced the decease of the Venerable and Honorable Joseph Anderson, late Comptroller of the Treasury. Since that publication, we have been favored with the following particulars of his life, in which we are sure our readers will take much interest:

**JOSEPH ANDERSON** was born at White Marsh, in the county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, on the 5th of November, 1757. In the year 1776, he joined the Army of the Revolution, and served during

the war from 1776 to its close in 1783. After serving for two years as Ensign and Lieutenant, he received the command of a company in the New Jersey line, and so continued to the close of the war, when he received, by an act of Congress, the brevet rank of Major. He was in several of the battles fought by the Army under General Washington in the Northern States, one of which the writer of this communication knows to have been the battle of Monmouth. He served in the expedition under Gen. Sullivan against the Six Nations of Confederate Indians. He served at the siege of York. In illustration of his character and firmness as an officer, is the high degree of confidence which the men under his immediate command always reposed in him. This fact was remarkably exemplified when that part of the New Jersey line with which his company was then on duty mutinied; the military order and discipline of his company was preserved unimpaired in the midst of the excitement and mutiny of the other troops of the same line, and of the Pennsylvania line; and he received from the commander of his regiment, Col. Dayton, a written testimonial of that fact. After the close of the Revolution, he settled in New Jersey, and there engaged in the practice of the law, to which he had devoted his studies before the commencement of the war. Soon attaining a high standing in his profession, he was appointed by General Washington, in 1791, a Judge in the Southwestern Territory, now the State of Tennessee, in which capacity he acted for several years. He bore a prominent part in the Convention which formed the Constitution of Tennessee, in 1796. After serving on the bench for several years, he resigned, to engage in the more active and lucrative business of the practice of the law. To this object he assiduously, energetically, and successfully devoted himself, until he was called by his adopted State, in 1797, to act as one of her first Senators in Congress. He was appointed, by four successive elections, to represent that State in the Senate of the United States in which capacity he served for eighteen years, when, in 1815, he was appointed Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States by Mr. Madison, the duties of which office he discharged with honor to himself, and service to his country, until, about twelve months since, being prostrated by paralysis, he withdrew from the cares of public life.

He expired with calmness and Christian resignation, after an illness of eight days, which his previously prostrated physical condition prevented from being marked by long continued pain.

**Will of Joseph Anderson**, Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury, residing in the City of Washington, D.C. (dtd. Jan. 2, 1836, probated March 18, 1839; Book 5, pp. 97-104; Box 14)

Disposition of property; in consideration of my having advanced large sums of money for my son, William, and having chiefly educated his two daughters, I feel, in all the tenderness of a parent for him, that I ought in justice to my other children, not assign to him any further portion of my Estate.

To son, Dr. Thomas A. Anderson, I have given his full share of land and money; although I am satisfied that release made by him to me of some 90 or 100 acres of land in southeast corner of tract called "Hackberry" is no equivalent, even if he should make it good, for the sums of money owned by him to me, my injunction that he will take care of his mother during her lifetime, subject however, to any other arrangements which my sons Alexander, Pierce Butler, and Addison Alexander may think it prudent to make for her comfort and well being; to him one pair of candlestick sconces silver plated with arms.

My sons Alexander, Thomas, Pierce Butler and Addison Alexander, believing they will, as Christian brothers, and filial reverence, do all things most advisable, to promote the mental peace and general tranquility of their mother.

To son, Pierce Butler Anderson, Esq., already given a small but valuable plantation and a small tract of land with mill seat thereon; have advanced to him since his going to Tenn., in cash, at various times considerable money, and therefore believe he has had his full share of my estate, but as far as forth as in equity, I can go in compliance with the wish of my son Washington, that to Pierce Butler, my undivided 2/3 of tract of land lying in Jefferson Co., Tenn., and known as "Lead Mines," near Peter Echols',

supposed to contain nearly 600 acres, it is not more than an eighth part of what have fallen to my son Washington if he had lived.

To son Addison Alexander Anderson, 403 acres of land in Roane Co., Tenn., on the Tenn. River, and being the upper part of Hacket's Bend" as surveyed by A.S. Lanoir on or about Oct. 31, 1834 at my instance.

To son James Madison Alexander, exhort him to see to become truly pious and upright; to remember he is the son of a Revolutionary father and that is my earnest desire to meet him as well as the rest of my children, redeemed thru Christ, in the Heavenly Kingdom; to him the "Upland" tract, including the spring of what is called "Hacket's Bend," also tract near Athens in McMinn Co., Tenn., which I purchased of Mr. Bogart; also brick house and land, estimated at 12 acres, adjoining Athens; also "Town Creek" tract in Roane Co., Tenn., rents from property given to son James to form in part the sum I intend his guardian to use for him annual until he arrives at age of 21 years.

Sons Alexander, Pierce Butler, and Addison Alexander, to be the absolute control of wife, to continue with her and brother Dr. Thomas A. Anderson; to them in trust for benefit of wife, all interest in a mercantile establishment at the Cheek's crossroads in East Tenn., the amount of capital invested by me being \$2,000, the same being the firm of Deaderick and Anderson; also negroes Davy, Alberto and Chany, now in the City of Washington, and Sarah, Ned, Abraham, Lizzy and her children, and Davy, now in the State of Tenn.; trustees to pay son Dr. Thomas A. Anderson \$300/annually in full compensation for his support of my wife.

To son Alexander Anderson, I have already given him a tract on the Tenn. River of 300 acres or thereabouts; also one other tract in State of Alabama of 160 acres; also at different times made to him considerable advances in stock, furniture, rents of my farms, money and a valuable negro boy.

Testator mentions previous will and conditions, published May 22, 1835.

Testator sold one-half of a very valuable tract of land called "Soldier's Rest" on Nola Chucky River to my son, Alexander Anderson, for which he received two negro boys, Abram and Henry, and one negro woman, Lizzy and child, valued at the time about \$1,500; making a deed of gift for other half of tract to son Alexander in consideration of he paying to Dr. Thomas A. Anderson \$200/annually.

Exrs.: Alexander, Thomas, Pierce Butler and Addison Alexander Anderson, sons

Wits.: John Laub; James Larned; William Williamson (both Larned and Williamson were dead by March 18, 1839)