

## Maj. Gen. Thomas Blount

(10 May 1759 – 7 Feb 1812)

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

A Representative from North Carolina. Born at 'Blound Hall,' Craven (now Pitt) County, N.C., May 10, 1759. Educated at home at the age of 16 entered the Revolutionary Army. In 1780 he became a deputy paymaster general, and was a major commanding a battalion of North Carolina militia at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. He was captured and sent to England as a prisoner of war. After the Revolutionary War he engaged in the mercantile business in Tarboro, Edgecombe County, N.C. He was elected a member of the State house of commons in 1788 and was elected as a Democrat to the 3rd through 5th Congresses (March 4, 1793 to March 3, 1799). He was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1802 to the 8th Congress but was elected to the 9th and 10th Congresses (March 4, 1805 to March 3, 1809). He was an unsuccessful candidate for election in 1808 to the 11th Congress but was elected to the 12th Congress and served from March 4, 1811 until his death in Washington, D.C., February 7, 1812. There is no inscription on his monument of patriot service. Interment in the Congressional Cemetery.

Brother of William Blount (who was expelled from Congress in 1797) and uncle of William Grainger Blount.

*The National Intelligencer, February 11, 1812*

Died. In this city, on Friday evening last (Feb. 7), at half past 8 o'clock, Major General Thomas Blount, a Representative in Congress from the state of North Carolina, in the 53d year of his age.

Never has it fallen to our lot to record the loss of a more honorable and worthy man. In him North Carolina is bereaved of one of her most useful and respectful citizens. Intrepid as a soldier, firm and consistent as a politician, he united the qualities of a statesman and warrior with those of the patriot and scholar.

Whilst a boy, at the age of 16, he entered into his country's service a volunteer in the Revolutionary army, in which he served in various capacities until the conclusion of a peace. We are not acquainted with the rank he held at the close of the war; but such was the confidence of the state in his patriotism and military talent, that he was raised, by successive promotions, to the highest rank in the militia of that state, in which capacity he commanded universal approbation.

He has been a member of Congress for many years, with occasional intervals. As a politician, whilst he was justly considered the inflexible and ardent friend to his country, he never departed from that gentlemanly deportment which always characterized the man.

A disconsolate widow is left to mourn her irreparable loss. He had no other family. Much as his death will be lamented as a public man, the grief of his numerous friends will prove his highest eulogy. Honored be his memory! Unfaded may the laurel and cypress intermingle at his tomb!

On Sunday last he was interred with military honors. The solemnity and length of the procession which accompanied him to the tomb afforded ample testimony to the general sensibility for his loss.

### *Order of Procession*

1. Mourners--preceded by a detachment from the Marine Corps, a file of Dragoons, and a full Band of martial music
2. Chaplains

3. Corpse
4. Physicians
5. Speaker of the House of Representatives, preceded by the Sergeant-at-arms, and followed by the Clerk
6. Members of the House of Representatives, those from North Carolina first
7. Vice-President of the United States, preceded by the Sergeant-at-arms, and followed by the Secretary
8. Members of the Senate
9. Heads of departments, and other principal officers of the government
10. Other citizens

The bearers were Mr. Stanford, Mr. M. Franklin, Mr. Cochran, and Mr. McBryde of North Carolina.

The pallbearers were General Sevier, of Tennessee, Col. Tallinadge, of Connecticut, Gen. Butler, of South Carolina, Gen. Breckenridge, of Virginia, Col. Van Cortland, of New York, Gen. Desha, of Kentucky, Gov. Wright, of Maryland, Gen. Brown, of Pennsylvania.

*Ely, Selden Marvin, "The District of Columbia In The American Revolution and Patriots of the Revolutionary Period Who Are Interred in the District or In Arlington,"*

Columbia Historical Society, Vol 21, pp. 128-154

General Thomas Blount, a representative from North Carolina, was born in Edgecombe County, May 10, 1759, and at the age of sixteen entered the Revolutionary Army. In 1780 he became a deputy paymaster-general, and was a major commanding a battalion of North Carolina militia at the battle of Eutaw Springs. The Congressional Biography ranks him a major-general of militia. He enjoyed a long congressional career, passing away while a member, February 7, 1812. There is no inscription on his monument of patriot service.