

## George Coke Dromgoole

(15 May 1797 – 28 Apr 1847)

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

A Representative from Virginia; born in Lawrenceville, Brunswick County, Va., May 15, 1797; completed preparatory studies; studied law; was admitted to the bar and practiced; member of the State house of representatives 1823-1826; member of the State senate 1826-1835; delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1829; elected as a Democrat to the 24th through 26th Congresses (March 4, 1835 to March 3, 1841); declined to be a candidate for reelection in 1840 to the 27th Congress; elected to the 28th through 30th Congresses and served from March 4, 1843 until his death on his estate in Brunswick County, Va., April 27, 1847; interment in the family burying ground south of the Meherrin River.

Uncle of Alexander Droomgoole Sims (Representative from S. Carolina).

*The National Intelligencer, May 2, 1847*

The report of the decease of the Hon. George C. Dromgoole, for several years past a Representative in Congress from the Brunswick district of Virginia, and just re-elected to that station in the Thirtieth Congress, is confirmed. He died, of a severe attack of bilious pleurisy, on Wednesday night last.

Mr. Dromgoole was a distinguished politician. Endowed by nature with sagacity to plan and courage to execute, he was the ablest debater of his party, and unequalled as a legislative tactician.

His death will be sincerely regretted by those who have always known him, as we have done, as a decided political opponent, it is true, but also as a courteous and kind-hearted gentleman.

*The National Intelligencer, May 19, 1847*

### The Late George C. Dromgoole

The following Letter from the late Gen. Dromgoole, written three years ago, giving an account of his descent, etc. will perhaps be of interest to a number of our readers, as it was to us. We copy it from the New York "Tribune:"

Washington, January 21, 1844

Dear Sir: Yours of the 2d was duly received. My parents were not both natives of the Emerald Isle. My father, Edward Dromgoole, was born in Sligo. When a youth he came to America a poor boy, with religious impressions and a strong desire for religious freedom. He landed at Philadelphia in 1772--came to Baltimore, and resided in that city, or its vicinity, with a Mr. John Haggerty, a tailor by trade, and a man of most exemplary piety. Edward Dromgoole had been brought up in Ireland to the trade of a linen weaver. When he came to reside with Mr. Haggerty, that he might not eat the bread of idleness, he assisted him in the business of tailoring. The thimble with which he worked is still carefully preserved in the family. They worked together and prayed together, and thus formed a social and religious attachment which endured during their joint lives; and the survivor, Edward Dromgoole, to the day of his death, cherished the memory of his departed friend with the fondest recollection. They were disciples, or followers as it was termed in those days, of John Wesley.

In 1774 Edward Dromgoole commenced preaching. While residing with Mr. Haggerty, however, he formed a society or class of Methodists, and held the first Methodist Class Meeting in America.

From a sense of duty he entered upon the plan of itinerant labor in the ministry. He proceeded from Maryland to Virginia, and traveled extensively in the latter State and in North Carolina. His adopted America engrossed all his feelings of attachment to country. Without mingling in political discussions and controversy, he was the ardent, prayerful advocate of Civil and Religious Freedom. In the very incipiency of the war between the Colonies and Great Britain, he hesitated not one moment in deciding whether he should own allegiance to America or to England. He quickly and voluntarily repaired to his friend and Christian brother, Robert Jones, a magistrate in the county of Sussex, in the State of Virginia, a man of great respectability and undoubted patriotism. Before him he took the oath of fidelity and allegiance, administered at his own request. A certificate of this oath he continually kept with him. He traveled during the Revolutionary war, everywhere performing his ministerial functions, and was in the neighborhood of Halifax, North Carolina, when the news of the Declaration of Independence was received. After preaching to a large congregation, he read to them, from his stand, at the request of Willie Jones, Esq., and other distinguished patriots of the town, the Declaration of Independence.

He settled in Brunswick county, in the State of Virginia, where he resided until his death, in 1835, in the 84th year of his age, having been a minister of the gospel for more than sixty years.

He intermarried with Rebecca Walton in said county, whose ancestors had early emigrated from England to Virginia. Whether they descended from the family of the bishop, the author of the Polyglot Bible, or from old Isaac the fisherman, is not known, nor is it material. They lived happily together, raised and educated a family of children, and left them a competency, acquired neither by speculation nor extortion--it was the result of economy and honest industry. I am their youngest child. Very respectfully, etc.

George C. Dromgoole

To. William L. Mackenzie, Esq., New York.