

## Sampson Willis Harris

(23 Feb 1809 – 1 Apr 1857)

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

A Representative from Alabama; born in Elbert County, Ga., February 23, 1809; obtained his early education from his mother, and was graduated from the University of Georgia at Athens in 1828; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1830 and commenced practice in Athens, Ga.; member of the State house of representatives in 1834 and 1835; moved to Watumpka, Ala. in 1838; elected solicitor of the 8th circuit in 1841; member of the State senate in 1844 and 1845; elected as a Democrat to the 30th through 34th Congresses (March 4, 1847 to March 3, 1857); declined to be a candidate for renomination in 1856; died in Washington, D.C., April 1, 1857; interment in Oconee Cemetery, Athens, Ga.

### *The National Intelligencer, April 2, 1857*

#### **Death of Mr. Harris**

It is with sincere regret that we are again called upon to record the death of a member of the late House of Representatives. The Hon. Samson W. Harris, a Representative from the State of Alabama, died yesterday morning at his late lodgings in this city, after an illness of several weeks duration.

Mr. Harris was yet in the prime of his days, having reached only the term of forty-eight years, of which the last ten years were spent in the National Councils--a continuity of service which attests at least the high esteem in which he was held by his immediate constituents; and that their confidence in him was not misplaced will be, we are sure, the testimony of all who knew him in the sphere of his public duties. He was a faithful Representative and an honor to the station. Indeed, there was not a more estimable gentleman in the whole body, nor one more popular.

The disease to which Mr. Harris fell a victim was, we learn, laryngitis, complicated with pneumonia, and his death, following in such quick succession that of the late Mr. Brooks and of the late Mr. Disney, adds still another and no less mournful commentary to the pathetic text of the Holy Book, that "man, being in honor, abideth not."