

Selah R. Hobbie

(10 Mar 1797 – 23 Mar 1854)

Hobbie. In this city on the 23d instant, Major Selah R. Hobbie, the First Assistant Postmaster General, aged 57 years. The friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral this afternoon at 4 o'clock at his late residence on 14th near F street.

The National Intelligencer, March 24, 1854

Deaths

In this city, yesterday, of a pulmonary complaint which had long affected him, the Hon. Selah R. Hobbie, the distinguished First Assistant Postmaster General. His death is truly a national loss. He was born at Newburgh, New York, on the 10th of March, 1797, and died at the age of fifty-seven. At an early day he established himself at Delhi, Delaware county, in the practice of the law, where he married a daughter of the distinguished General Root, with whom he was connected in business. As an evidence that his talents and standing were duly appreciated, he was early commissioned District Attorney and Brigade Major and Inspector, in both of which capacities he acquitted himself with distinguished ability and success. He was elected to Congress in the fall of 1826, while yet a young man. He was appointed Assistant Postmaster General on the accession of Gen. Jackson to the Presidency in 1829. To his skill, judgment, and perseverance the Post Office Department owes much of its success during the last twenty-five years. His severe and unremitting labors impaired his health, and in 1850 he voluntarily retired from office. Relaxation and quite somewhat restored him. On President Pierce coming into office, he yielded to the urgent request of friends, and consented to resume his duties of First Assistant Postmaster General. His strength was unequal to the labors of the position, and he soon sank under them. In his intercourse he was easy, frank, and candid. These qualities, added to his extensive knowledge in matters of business, made him a most popular public officer. He was esteemed and beloved by all his friends. As a husband and a father he was devoted, kind, and affectionate; as a Christian he was exemplary, sincere, and confiding.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from New York; born in Newburgh, Orange County, New York, March 10, 1797; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Delhi, New York; district attorney of Delaware County, 1823-1827; member of the State assembly 1827-1829; served in the militia as brigade major and inspector; elected as a Jackson Democrat to the 20th Congress (March 4, 1827 - March 3, 1829); was appointed Assistant Postmaster General and served from 1829 until 1851, when he resigned on account of ill health; appointed First Assistant Postmaster General and served from March 22, 1853 until his death in Washington, D.C., March 23, 1854.