

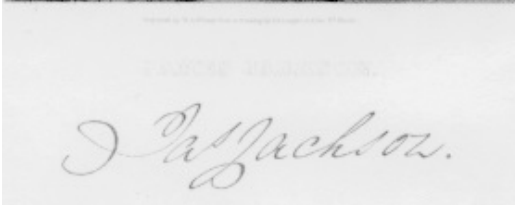
## James S. Jackson

(21 Sep 1757 – 19 Mar 1806)

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

A Representative and Senator from Georgia; born in Moreton-Hampstead, Devonshire, England, Sept. 21, 1757; came to Georgia in 1772 and located in Savannah; clerk of the court, by election of the Provincial Congress, in 1776 and 1777; member of the first constitutional convention of Georgia in 1777; elected Governor in 1778 but declined; entered the Revolutionary Army as captain and commander of the Georgia Legionary Forces in 1781; received the keys to Savannah from the British July 12, 1782; presented with a house in Savannah by the Assembly of the State of Georgia; elected to the 1st Congress (March 4, 1789 to March 3, 1791); contested the election of Anthony Wayne in the 2nd Congress and the seat was declared vacant by the House Mar. 21, 1792; elected to the U.S. Senate and served from Mar. 4, 1793 until his resignation in 1795; Democratic presidential elector in 1797 and voted for Jefferson and Clinton; Governor of Georgia 1798 to 1801; was again elected to the U.S. Senate and served from March 4, 1801 until his death in Washington, D.C, March 19, 1806; reinterment in the Congressional Cemetery. Father of Jabez Y. Jackson (Representative from Georgia). Grandfather of James Jackson (Representative from Georgia).



*The National Intelligencer, Friday, March 21, 1806*

We discharge the mournful duty of announcing the death of another revolutionary hero. On Tuesday evening General James Jackson, a Senator from Georgia, drew his last breath, after a long and painful illness. Leaving the task of eulogy to other pens, we cannot refrain from that expression of regret, which we are convinced, we feel in common with every patriotic mind in America, at the loss of a man, who, a host in the days of peril, was still ready to exert his powers in the defense of his country's rights.

A grateful country has attested its sense of the loss it has sustained by the death of this distinguished citizen. Both branches of the legislature have agreed to wear mourning for a month, and the House of Representatives have, by an unanimous vote, enrolled him on the list of our distinguished revolutionary patriots.

The remains of the General were yesterday interred in the burying ground at Rock Creek Church, with military honors, accompanied by a long procession, composed of the military in uniform, martial music, the masons, the members of the two Houses of Congress, officers of the Executive department, and citizens.

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 James Jackson, one of the most distinguished Georgians, reposes in Congressional Cemetery. His enviable military record is to be found in Heitman, and more extensively, together with his civil life, in The National Portrait Gallery. He was Governor of Georgia, and United States Senator from 1801 to March, 1806. He passed away on the 19th day of March, of that year and was interred, the Portrait Gallery states, "four miles from Washington," which was in fact Rock Creek Churchyard. He was reinterred in Congressional Cemetery under one of the cenotaphs. A Revolutionary War, D.A.R. marker stands on his grave and the last phrase of the inscription on his tomb is "a soldier of the Revolution".

### *Military Biographies*

Jackson, James (Sept. 21, 1757-March 19, 1806), governor of Georgia and United States senator, best known for his assault on the Yazoo Land companies, was born at Moreton Hampstead, Devonshire, England, the son of James and Mary (Webber) Jackson. At the age of fifteen he emigrated to Georgia and was placed under the protection of John Wreath, a Savannah lawyer. His six years of military service during the Revolution were rendered in the Georgia state forces, and "impassioned eloquence" was one of his chief contributions to the cause. He took part in the unsuccessful defense of Savannah (1778), the battle of Cowpens, and the recovery of Augusta (1781). In July 1782, at which time he held the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he was ordered by General Wayne to take possession of Savannah upon its evacuation by the British. Three weeks later the legislature of Georgia gave him a house and lot in that town.

After studying law with George Walton he built up a practice that he estimated was worth £3,000 a year by 1789. He served several terms in the Georgia legislature, was appointed colonel of the militia of Chatham County (1784) and brigadier-general (1786), and was elected an honorary member of the Society of the Cincinnati. In 1788 he was elected governor, but declined the office on the ground of his youth and inexperience. On Jan. 30, 1785, he married Mary Charlotte Young, by whom he had five sons. Four of these were later prominent in the public life of the state. In 1789 he was elected member of Congress from the eastern district of Georgia. Anthony Wayne defeated him for reelection in 1791. Jackson, charging fraud, induced the House of Representatives to unseat Wayne, but failed to get the place for himself. He was sent to the legislature, and in 1792 was appointed major-general for service against the Creek Indians. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1793 but resigned in 1795 on account of the Yazoo scandal and returning to Georgia, was elected to the legislature, where he led the successful fight for the repeal of the obnoxious act. He was an influential member of the convention of 1798 that framed a new state constitution. Governor from 1798 to 1801, he was again elected to the United States Senate in the latter year and served in that body until his death in 1806. He was a member of the Georgia commission that made the land cession of 1802.

In national politics he was an independent Republican. In the first Congress he assailed vehemently the judiciary bill and Hamilton's financial measures, defending the "gallant veteran" of the Revolution against the "wolves of speculation"; but he was a professed admirer of Blackstone, urged a stringent naturalization law as a bar to the "common class of vagrants, paupers and other outcasts of Europe," and opposed amending the Federal Constitution. His principles were not inflexible, for he was shortly thereafter one of the chief advocates of the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution. Although he supported Jefferson and Burr in 1800 and, when his party was victorious, counseled a political ally not to be "squeamish" about dismissing Federalist office-holders, he refused to acknowledge the obligation of party regularity, opposing the administration's bill for the government of the Orleans Territory (1805)

and its efforts to settle with the Yazoo claimants and to prohibit the African slave trade. In Georgia he cultivated the up-country leaders, among them William H. Crawford, and while in the Senate urged federal aid for a road from Kentucky to Augusta, Ga.

Rice and cotton were the principal crops raised on his tidewater plantations. While governor he recommended to the state legislature that it either pay Miller and Whitney a "moderate" sum for their patent right to the cotton gin or else suppress the right. Gentle and affectionate towards family and friends, a reader of the Encyclopedia and a patron of the University of Georgia, he would fight at the drop of a hat. In one rough-and-tumble affray he saved himself from being gouged by biting his opponent's finger. He killed Lieutenant-Governor Wells of Georgia in a duel fought without seconds (1780). His own death, which occurred in Washington, D.C., is said by some to have been due to wounds received in the last of his many duels, although J.Q. Adams, who was in Washington at the time, attributed it to the dropsy. An English country boy molded by the Southern frontier, Jackson was a fervid patriot in speech and a violent partisan in action.

[T.U.P. Charlton, *The Life of Maj.-Gen. James Jackson* (1809: reprinted with additions in 1897), contains in addition to secondary accounts, a number of Jackson's letters; an autobiography is in the possession of the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah (W.J. Norton, *Men of Mark in Georgia*, Vol. I, 1907); see also *Annals of Cong.*, 1789-91, 1793-95, and 1801-06; *Am. Hist. Rev.*, Oct. 1897, p.118; James Herring and J.B. Longacre, *The National Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Americans*, vol. III (1836); W.B. Stevens, *A Hist. Of Ga.*, vol. II (1859); A.H. Chappell, *Miscellanies of Ga.* (1874); *National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser*, Mar. 21, 1806]