

Joseph Lawrence

(1786 – 17 Apr 1842)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Pennsylvania; born near Hunterstown, Adams County, Pa., in 1786; moved with his widowed mother to a farm in Washington County in 1789; attended the common schools; engaged in agricultural pursuits; member of the State house of representatives 1818-1824 and served as speaker 1820-1822; elected to the 19th and 20th Congresses (March 4, 1825-March 3, 1829); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1828 to the 21st Congress; again a member of the State house of representatives 1834-1836; State treasurer in 1837; unsuccessful candidate for election in 1838 to the 26th Congress; elected as a Whig to the 27th Congress and served from March 4, 1841, until his death in Washington, D.C., April 17, 1842; interment in the Congressional Cemetery.

The National Intelligencer, April 18, 1842

Death of the Hon. Joseph Lawrence

The sad duty devolves upon us of announcing the decease of another Member of the House of Representatives, than whom that body possesses few whose death would be more lamented than his will be by those who have enjoyed the opportunity of knowing and appreciating his many titles to respect and esteem.

The Hon. Joseph Lawrence, one of the Representatives from the State of Pennsylvania, expired at his lodgings in this city yesterday morning, at a little after 11 o'clock. His illness had been of some two weeks' duration, and is supposed to have been induced by fatigue and anxiety of mind consequent upon his late painful attendance upon the deathbed of his eldest son and his son's wife, and upon the illness of other members of his family, from a protracted visit to whom he had but recently returned.

Mr. Lawrence was fifty-four years of age. For many years he had been in public service. Nine years, first and last, he served in the Legislature of his own State, during four years of which he occupied the post of Speaker of the House of Representatives. For four years, in the nineteenth and twentieth Congresses, he was a Member of the House of Representatives of the United States. One year he was Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania; soon after retiring from which station upon a change of parties, he was again elected a Representative to Congress, and took his seat at the opening of the late Extra Session. His public duties he discharged with faithfulness, ability, and assiduity.

Uniting with great amenity of manners and kindness of heart, much experience in public affairs, and the most inflexible integrity, his influence was always great and salutary, and his death will be felt as a loss to his State and to the Public.

To the family of which he was the affectionate and beloved head, his death is an affliction which no earthly power can relieve. But to them it will be some consolation to know that he died the peaceful and happy death of a faithful follower of that religion of which he had for a long time been an earnest professor.

The National Intelligencer, Tuesday, April 19, 1842

In Congress, yesterday, no business was done except the adoption of resolutions in reference to the lamented decease of the Hon. Joseph Lawrence, one of the members of the House of Representatives from the State of Pennsylvania. The Funeral is to take place, from the Capitol, at 12 o'clock today.

The National Intelligencer, Tuesday, April 19, 1842

Funeral of Joseph Lawrence

Order of Procession for the Funeral of the Hon. Joseph Lawrence, a Representative in the Congress of the United States from the State of Pennsylvania.

The Committee of Arrangements, pall-bearers, and mourners will attend at Mrs. Spriggs's, the late residence of the deceased, at 11 o'clock this day, at which time the corpse will be removed to charge of the Committee of Arrangements, attended by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives, to the Hall of the House.

At 12 o'clock m. Funeral services will be performed in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and immediately thereafter the procession will move to the Congressional Burial Ground in the following order:

1. The Chaplains of both Houses of Congress
2. Physicians who attended the deceased
3. Committee of Arrangements
 - Mr. J.Q. Adams, of Mass. Mr. J.R Underwood, of Ky.
 - Mr. James Irvin, of Penn. Mr. T.W. Gilmer, of Va.
 - Mr. P.G. Goode, of Ohio, Mr. Seth M. Gates, of N.Y.
 - Mr. G.M. Keim, of Penn. Mr. J.J. McKay, of N.C.
4. Pall-Bearers
 - Mr. B.N. Briggs, of Mass. Mr. R.L. Caruthers, of Tenn.
 - Mr. Lott Warren, of Ga. Mr. N. Clifford, of Maine
 - Mr. Truman Smith of Conn. Mr. C. Morris, of Ohio
 - Mr. M. Fillmore, of N.Y. Mr. J. Campbell, of S.C.
5. The family and friends of the deceased
6. The Senators and Representatives from the State of Pennsylvania, as mourners
7. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives
8. The House of Representatives of the United States, preceded by their Speaker and Clerk
9. The other officers of the House of Representatives
10. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate
11. The Senate, preceded by their President and Secretary
12. The other officers of the Senate
13. The Officers of the Library of Congress
14. The President of the United States (Tyler)
15. The Heads of Departments
16. The Diplomatic Corps.
17. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States and its officers
18. The Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, with the Marshal and Clerk.
19. The Comptrollers, Auditors, and other Heads of Bureaus of the several Departments of the Government, with their officers
20. Other Public Officers at the seat of Government.
21. The Commanding General of the Army, with other military officers at the seat of Government.
22. The Commissioners of the Navy, with other naval officers at the seat of Government.
23. The Mayor of Washington (Seaton) and the Commissioner of Public Buildings.
24. The Freeman's Vigilant Total Abstinence Society of Washington, of which the deceased was a member.

25. Citizens and Strangers.