

William Lowndes

(11 Feb 1782 – 27 Oct 1822)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from South Carolina; born on "Horseshoe" plantation, near Jacksonborough, St. Bartholomew's parish, South Carolina, February 11, 1782; pursued classical studies in England and at home; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1804 and commenced practice in Charleston, S.C.; also engaged in agricultural pursuits; member of the State house of representatives 1806-1810; captain of militia in 1807; elected as a Democrat to the 12th through 17th Congresses and served from March 4, 1811, until May 8, 1822, when he resigned; nominated by the General Assembly of South Carolina for the office of President of the United States in 1821; declined Cabinet positions and foreign missions from Presidents Madison and Monroe; died at sea while enroute to England October 27, 1822; remains were buried at sea.

The National Intelligencer, November 11, 1822

The Charleston papers inform us that Mr. Lowndes, previously to his departure for Europe resigned his seat in Congress and that the election is to take place on the 25th instant to supply the vacancy.

The National Intelligencer, Monday, January 20, 1823

An arrival at Charleston, in a short passage from Liverpool, brings the melancholy intelligence of the decease of the Honorable William Lowndes of South Carolina. He died at sea on the 27th of November, being on his way to Europe, whither he had been advised by his physicians to go as a last hope of benefiting his health. Mr. Lowndes was about 40 years of age; and the distinguished part he had acted in the councils of his country, during the eventful scenes of the last twelve years, had made him universally known to his countrymen as one of their most enlightened and virtuous fellow-citizens. It is not for us to pronounce the eulogy of this excellent public servant; but to speak of him, as we knew him, is a tribute which we ought not to withhold. The surest test and most honorable proof of his surpassing merit, was the respect which, during the most acrimonious periods, was rendered to him in the House of Representatives, and the undisputed influence he possessed in that body. To the endowments and acquirements of an accomplished statesman, he united private worth, as rare as it was estimable. Mild and modest, he was frank without rudeness-zealous without obtrusiveness; and his invariable candor always so tempered with gentleness, that he could not, with these qualities, fail to win the esteem of all with whom he acted, and rivet the influence which his talents commanded. We do not believe, indeed, that amongst the many able and excellent men to whom this nation, during its short history, has given birth, there has been one, who at so early an age, had acquired a reputation for the united excellencies of profound talents, of disinterestedness, and purity of character, equal to that which adorned the name of William Lowndes.