

Charles Ogle

(1798 – 10 May 1841)

The National Intelligencer, May 18, 1841

We announce with pain the death of the Hon. Charles Ogle, member of Congress from the Bedford District, Pennsylvania. He died at his residence, Somerset, Pennsylvania on the 10th of a consumption which has preyed upon him for many months past. Mr. Ogle we need not add was one of the most fearless, ardent and efficient advocates of the cause of National Reform.

The National Intelligencer, February 16, 1844

The Libel Upon The Dead

The Harrisburg Intelligencer thus notices the circumstances of the conviction and pardon of the libeler of the memory of the Hon. Charles Ogle, deceased:

The Ogle Slander -- Most of our readers ill recollect the infamous story so extensively circulated by the Locofoco press, in reference to the alleged deathbed confession of the Hon. Charles Ogle, of Somerset, in which he was said to have denied that he ever made the speech in reference to Executive extravagance. The friends of Mr. Ogle, commendably jealous of the reputation of their deceased relative, instituted a prosecution for libel against George W. Bowman, Editor of the Bedford Gazette, one of the papers in which the story had appeared, and at the court held in Somerset last week he was tried for the offence and found guilty. A day or two after, however, the sheriff of Somerset county received a document from the Governor, remitting the fine imposed upon Bowman by the Court in the above case, equivalent to a pardon. In other words, a proclamation to all unprincipled Locofoco editors to go on in their career of slandering the living and the dead, without fear as to the consequences.

On the subject of this conviction we have received a letter from a correspondent, who thinks that the circumstances of Mr. Ogle's speech, and the motive for slandering his memory in regard to it, not being as generally known elsewhere as they are here, ought to be brought more prominently to view in our columns than they have been on this occasion. Elsewhere than here it may, perhaps, be necessary; but there is no reader of ours who does not well remember Mr. Ogle's speech, its effect, the recent abortive attempt to discredit it, and the more recent conviction of one of the authors of that most disreputable party trick. The whole subject is, therefore, already before our readers.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Pennsylvania; born in Somerset, Somerset County, Pennsylvania in 1798; completed preparatory studies; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1822 and commenced practice in Somerset; elected as a Whig to the 25th through 27th Congresses and served from March 4, 1837 until his death in Somerset, Pa. May 10, 1841; interment in Union Cemetery.

Son of Alexander Ogle, Rep., PA