

John Anthony Quitman

(1 Sep 1799 – 16 Jul 1858)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989



A Representative from Mississippi; born in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, N.Y., September 1, 1799; pursued classical studies and was graduated from Hartwick Seminary in 1816; instructor of Mount Airy College, Pennsylvania, in 1818; studied law; was admitted to the bar; moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1820, and thence to Natchez, Miss., in 1821, where he practiced law; member of the State house of representatives in 1826 and 1827; chancellor of the State from 1828 until 1835, when he resigned; member of the State constitutional convention in 1832; served in the State senate in 1835 and 1836 and was made its president; Acting Governor of Mississippi in 1835 and 1836; judge of the high court of errors and appeals in 1838; during the Mexican War was appointed a brigadier general of Volunteers July 1, 1846; commissioned a major general in the Regular Army April 14, 1847, and honorably discharged July 20, 1848; presidential elector on the Democratic ticket of Cass and Butler in 1848; Governor of Mississippi in 1850 and 1851; elected as a Democrat to the 34th and 35th Congresses and served from March 4, 1855, until his death on his plantation, "Monmouth," near Natchez, Miss., July 17, 1858, presumably from poison secretly placed in food served at a banquet in

Washington, D.C. during the inauguration of President Buchanan; interment in the Natchez City Cemetery.