

Christopher Rankin

(1788 – 14 Mar 1826)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Mississippi; born in Washington County, Penn. in 1788; completed preparatory studies at Canonsburg, Penn., moved to Georgia; taught in village school and studied law at the same time; was admitted to the bar in 1809 and commenced practice in Liberty, Amite County, Miss.; member of the Territorial legislature in 1813; moved to Natchez, Miss. in 1816 and practiced law; member of the state constitutional convention in 1817; unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Senator in 1817; held several local offices; elected as a Democrat to the 16th through 19th Congresses and served from March 4, 1819 until his death in Washington, D.C. March 14, 1826; interment in the Congressional Cemetery.

The National Intelligencer, Thursday, March 16, 1826

In Senate

The following message was received from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Clarke, their Clerk:

Mr. President: I am directed to announce to the Senate, the death of the Hon. Christopher Rankin, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Mississippi, and that his funeral will take place tomorrow, at the hour of twelve o'clock.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, it was Resolved, That the Senate will attend the funeral of the Hon. Christopher Rankin, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Mississippi, tomorrow at 12 o'clock, and, as a testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased, they will go into mourning, and wear crape round the left arm for thirty days.

And then the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives

After the reading of the Journal, Mr. Owen of Alabama, rose, and announced to the House the death of the Hon. Christopher Rankin, the Representative from the State of Mississippi, in the following terms:

Mr. Speaker: The painful duty of announcing to the House the death of the distinguished Representative of the State of Mississippi, has devolved on me. I do not, I cannot, attempt a panegyric on the memory of the deceased. His death is a national calamity. He was, sire, a statesman, a patriot and an honest man: his loss to his State is irreparable; his place here cannot easily be filled. Virtuous, philanthropic, and charitable, all who knew him were his friends--enemies he had none.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Owen, the House came to the following resolutions:

Resolved unanimously, That the Members of this House will testify their respect for the memory of Christopher Rankin, by wearing crape on their left arm for thirty days.

Resolved, unanimously, That the Members of this House will attend the funeral of the late Christopher Rankin, tomorrow at 12 o'clock.

Resolved, That a Committee of Arrangement be appointed, and that the Senate be notified thereof. And then the House adjourned till tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

The National Intelligencer, Friday, March 17, 1826

The House of Representatives assembled yesterday, according to adjournment, at 11 o'clock; when the Journal was read, and on motion of Mr. Campbell of Ohio, the House immediately adjourned.

Soon afterwards, the President of the United States and the Heads of Departments entered the Hall, and took their seats on the left of the Speaker's Chair, in the circular space in front of the Clerk's Table. At half past eleven the coffin, containing the remains of the deceased Member, the lamented Rankin, preceded by the Sergeant-at-arms and Committee of Arrangements and followed by the pall bearers, was brought in and placed in the center of the Hall. At a quarter before twelve, the Senate, preceded by their Secretary and Sergeant-at-arms, with the Vice President of the United States at their head, entered, and took the seats reserved from them in front. Soon after which, the Judges of the Supreme Court, preceded by the Marshal, appeared and took their places.

The Rev. Mr. Post, Chaplain to the House of Representatives, then rose, and read the 15th Chapter of the 1st Epistle of Corinthians. After which he made a very solemn and appropriate address on the general topics incident to the occasion, in which he adverted in an affecting manner, to the peaceful death of the departed. He closed his remarks with an affectionate exhortation to all to prepare for this solemn event, which no man can avert or avoid. The address was followed by prayer, and then the procession was formed in the order usual on such occasions, and bent its way to the receptacle alike of greatness and humility. The body of the deceased was laid by the side of his peers, who preceded him in their arrival at the goal of life. His memory is embalmed in the affections of his friends, and the respect of all men.

Will of Christopher Rankin, native of Washington Co., Pa., now a citizen of Miss. And Representative to U.S. Congress (dtd. March 4, 1826, probated March 17, 1826, Will Book 3)

To wife Juliana Rankin, entire estate, bank stock, and any right, title or interest that I may have acquired in her right to any portion of the estate of the late Gen. John Stricker, of Baltimore (father-in-law).

Exrs.: Juliana Rankin, wife; Richard B. Magruder, Baltimore, Gabriel Techenor, of Natches

Wits.: Thomas H. Williams, William R. King, Powhatan Ellis