

George Whitfield Scranton

(11 May 1811 – 24 Mar 1861)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Pennsylvania; born in Madison, New Haven County, Conn., May 11, 1811; attended the common schools and Lee's Academy; moved to Belvidere, N.J., in 1828 and became a teamster; subsequently engaged in mercantile pursuits, first as a clerk and later as a partner in the business; from 1835 to 1839 was interested in agricultural pursuits and in the latter year engaged in the manufacture of iron, and began experimenting with the practicability of smelting ore by means of anthracite coal in Slocum (now Scranton), Pa.; founder of the Lackawanna Iron & Coal Co. and the city of Scranton, Pa.; projected and constructed the Northumberland division of the Lackawanna Railroad companies; elected as a Republican to the 36th and 37th Congresses and served from March 4, 1859, until his death in Scranton, Pa., March 24, 1861; interment in Dunmore Cemetery.