

Charles Slade

(– 26 Jul 1834)

The National Intelligencer, July 28, 1834

Obituary

The Hon. Charles Slade, of Illinois, whose decease was mentioned in a brief paragraph some days ago, we since learn, died of Cholera, after a few hours illness, at the house of Captain John Steen, near Vincennes, on his way home from Congress. His remains were interred at Vincennes, with Masonic honors.

"In his sudden death, (observes a correspondent of the Globe) we have another instance of the frail tenure which attaches us to life and all earthly enjoyments. He left this scene of legislative and party strife, full of health and hope, anxious to behold again his beloved wife and children after a longer absence than they had ever before felt; but, within a short distance of these endearing objects, he has been forever arrested by an invisible hand. Yet, if the Christian has hope, his was a sudden translation from the toils and cares of this, to that better sphere of being, where a bright reversion awaits the righteous.

"Mr. Slade was a native of Alexandria, in this District, born of respectable parents, who gave him a plain and religious education. At an early period of life, with limited means, and without the advantage of friends, he went to Illinois, and established himself on the Kaskaskia river; and there, by a course of diligent attention to business, sustained by intelligence and probity, he acquired much reputation, if not considerable wealth. He was a member of the State Legislature several years, and distinguished in the Assembly for the useful, rather than the shining qualities, in short, an unostentatious man of business, looking steadfastly to the good of his constituents, and that of the general community, by carefully studying their interests, and making himself thoroughly acquainted with the condition, wants, and resources, of this young and most fertile State. These properties brought him into Congress, where his modesty, gentleness, unaffected simplicity of heart and manners, united to much intellectual promptitude, gained the respect and esteem of all with whom he came into contact. He made no pretension to oratory, but what he said was always at the proper time, and to the purpose. Though he made no display in Congress, he was remarked for the regularity of his attendance, and his untiring patience during many of its long and vexatious sessions; and, as a member of the Committee on Roads and Canals, he was equally attentive to his duties, and anxiously alive to the wishes of his constituents.

"Mr. Slade was certainly in the path to the highest honors of his adopted State, and would have lost no reputation as her Representative in the National Legislature; and the early fall of such men must be matter of general regret, if not to be regarded as a public calamity. In his death, Illinois has lost a patriot, his family a most affectionate husband and father, and the writer of this article a friend long to be lamented."

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Illinois; born in England; immigrated to the United States with his parents who settled in Alexandria, Virginia; attended the public schools; moved to Carlyle, St. Clair County, Illinois; engaged in mercantile pursuits; held several local offices; member of the State house of representatives in 1820 & 1826; elected as a Democrat to the 23rd Congress and served from March 4, 1833 until his death near Vincennes, Indiana, July 26, 1834.