

## Samuel Lewis Southard

(9 Jun 1787 – 26 Jun 1842)

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*The National Intelligencer, Friday, July 15, 1842*

### **The Late Samuel L. Southard**

*(Written on the day of his funeral)*

*To the Editors of the National Intelligencer,*

Gentlemen: The mournful occasion which this day gathered around the bier of the lamented



Southard the friends and contemporaries of that patriot and statesman was of the most solemn and impressive character. Upon the mind accustomed to the contemplation of the immediate and remote consequences of the removal from the councils of the nation of an able, an earnest, and a gallant spirit, the event, during the momentary interval of solemn silence preceding the funeral service, is calculated to make the deepest impressions. The animated countenance, the fervid eloquence, the bold manner, the determined bearing of the fearless legislator, are sunken and hushed into the awful stillness of death. The contentions, even the asperities of debate have passed, the wave that were tossed by the impetuous tempest have subsided, and naught is seen upon the bosom of the ocean but the calm and motionless expanse: naught is remembered by gallant and generous spirits but the many tone of independence of character of their departed associate and co-laborer in the service of a

common country; and this elevated sentiment, perhaps, has never been more beautifully illustrated than on the present occasion. One who had oft times broken a lance in the chivalric encounters of senatorial contention of intellect, when the melancholy annunciation is made in that honorable body, rises in his place, and, with those spontaneous emotions which are the sure evidences of sincerity of heart, offers the last tribute of respect and esteem to the virtues of a departed brother Senator. Generous sentiments and noble actions deserve the recognition of the virtuous; and a name which has borne an honorable and conspicuous place on the records and in the councils of the nation for a period of thirty-one years, whose possessor has enjoyed the uninterrupted confidence and esteem of his constituents, and the respect and esteem of his associates in both branches of the National Legislature, is, without effort, and, as it were by a natural impulse, associated with such actions.

*The National Intelligencer, Tuesday, June 28, 1842*

Samuel L. Southard, the beloved and respected Senator from the State of New Jersey, and late President of the body of which he had long been a distinguished ornament, is no more. Our forebodings of the fatal termination of the illness under which he had long suffered, have been realized. He died at Fredericksburg, in Virginia, the midst of his friends, and surrounded by all the members of his family, on Sunday last, at about 10 o'clock in the morning.

We shall not dim the deserved eulogy bestowed upon his memory in the annunciation to the Senate of their loss, by any attempts on our own part to do justice to the various merits of the deceased. He was, to our personal knowledge, with few equals in all the relations of Son, Husband, and Father; and he was, of all things, as true a Friend as ever breathed. As a citizen he ever enjoyed the highest estimation;

and his abilities are best proved by the elevated stations to which they have induced his fellow-citizens successively to call him.

The age of Mr. Southard was about 55 years. He must have been generally thought to be much older, so young (for this country) did he attain high reputation, and so early did that reputation bring him into the Public Councils. He was chosen to be Chief Justice of his own State as early as at twenty-eight years of age. He became a Senator of the United States in the year 1821; and in the year 1823 he was appointed by President Monroe to the highly responsible post of Secretary of the Navy, the duties of which office he discharged with pre-eminent ability up to the close of the Administration of Mr. Adams. In the year 1833 he again took his seat as a Senator from his native State, and had ever since, up to the moment of his last illness, faithfully discharged the duties of that honorable station.

*The National Intelligencer, Tuesday, June 28, 1842*

### **Funeral of the Hon. Samuel L. Southard**

Order of Procession for the Funeral of the Hon. Samuel L. Southard, Senator of the United States from the State of New Jersey.

The Committee of Arrangements, Pall-bearers and Mourners will attend at the late residence of the deceased at ten o'clock this day, at which time the corpse will be removed in charge of the Committee of Arrangements, attended by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, to the Senate Chamber, where divine service will be performed.

At 11 o'clock a.m., the funeral will move from the Senate Chamber to the place of interment in the following order:

1. The Chaplains of both Houses of Congress
2. Physicians who attended the deceased
3. Committee of Arrangements
  - Mr. King                      Mr. Clayton
  - Mr. Woodbury              Mr. Tallmadge
  - Mr. Henderson             Mr. Evans
4. Pall-Bearers
  - Mr. Berrien                 Mr. Huntington
  - Mr. Preston                 Mr. Chittenden
  - Mr. Linn                      Mr. Wright
5. The family and friends of the deceased
6. The Senator and Representatives from the State of New Jersey, as mourners
7. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate of the United States
8. The Senate of the United States, preceded by the President pro tempore and their Secretary
9. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives
10. The House of Representatives, preceded by their Speaker and Clerk
11. The President of the United States (Tyler)
12. The Heads of Departments
13. Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court
14. The Diplomatic Corps
15. Judges of the United States
16. Officers of the Army and Navy
17. Citizens and Strangers.

*The National Intelligencer, June 28, 1842*

### **Death of Mr. Southard**

Mr. Miller, of New Jersey, then rose and addressed the Senate as follows: Mr. President: I rise but to add another shade to the gloom which now pervades this Chamber, by communicating to the Senate the sad intelligence, which I received this morning, of the death of my colleague, to Hon. Samuel L. Southard.

He died yesterday morning at twenty minutes past ten, at Fredericksburg in Virginia.

It is, Mr. President, about one short month since our friend left that honored seat, now occupied by yourself. He parted from us somewhat broken in health and constitution, but he carried with him our ardent hopes and our sincere prayers that a short relaxation from the cares and labors of official station would soon restore him to us, in renewed life and health.

But alas! a wise but a mysterious Providence has ordered it otherwise. Death has disappointed our hopes, and our respected friend and colleague has passed forever from this scene of his usefulness--cut off from all the active associations of private and public life; and we are now called to mourn over the death of him whom it was our pleasure to honor while living.

After announcing this afflictive event, the feelings of my heart urge me to sit down and be still beneath the influences of the solemn associations which crowd around this mournful dispensation of Providence, leaving it to another and a more fit occasion to speak of the life and character of the deceased. To speak now of the many honors which he honestly won, of the rich virtues that he cultivated, and of the exalted talents which, for thirty years, he devoted to the service of his country, would be only to sharpen the grief and to deepen the calamity of this occasion.

Mr. Southard was born on the 9th of June, 1787, at Baskingridge, county of Somerset, in the State of New Jersey. Born and brought up under her free institutions, educated in her schools, and a graduate of her college, he was in principle and in feeling every inch a Jerseyman. Duly appreciating his worth, his native State called him early into her service.

A few years after he was admitted to the bar, and at the age of about twenty-six, he was placed upon the bench of our Supreme Court. After discharging the duties of that responsible office with distinguished ability for several years, he was, in the year 1821, first elected Senator in Congress. He then continued a member of this body until the 23d of November, 1823, when he resigned, and on the 9th day of December, of the same year, Mr. Monroe honored him with his confidence by placing him in the Cabinet as Secretary of the Navy, in which high office he continued during the whole term of Mr. Adams's administration.

His services in that department are fully known to the country and duly appreciated by the navy, whose glory and interest he ever delighted to maintain and promote.

Upon the retiring of Mr. Adams' Cabinet, on the 3d of March, 1829, Mr. Southard returned to his native State. She received him with open arms and with all the affection due to a worthy son, who had been absent for a time doing good service in the cause of our common country.

After serving his State at home in the capacity of Attorney General and Governor, he was again, in 1833, chosen Senator, and after serving his term of six years, was re-elected for the third and last time on the 15th November, 1838.

And now, after an official service, well and faithfully performed, for over twenty years, in the fullness of manhood, with a ripened intellect, a matured judgment, and in the enjoyment of the confidence of this august body, manifested in their promoting him to the Presidency of the Senate, it has pleased Almighty God to close his earthly career.

Another mortal blow has been struck at this Senate--another seat is vacant--another voice is silenced by death. Afflictive as this blow is to us and to the nation, it has fallen with tenfold severity upon that little devoted domestic circle which surrounded his bed and soothed, as far as human affection could soothe, the pillow of a dying father and husband.

I would not on this occasion obtrude within that sacred family circle but to sympathize and console; to speak of those private virtues, those affections of the heart, which endeared him to his family and friends.

To a mind of a high and commanding order--to talents which could grasp and comprehend all the affairs of a mighty nation--he united a simplicity of manner, an honesty of purpose, and a kindness of disposition, which never failed to surround him with many a true friend in life, and left him without a single enemy in death.

Impressed while young, through the precepts and examples of pious parents, with the truths of our holy religion, their benign influences were never lost upon him amidst the exciting scenes through which he passed in manhood. Firmly convinced of the reality and importance of Christianity, he was, on all fit occasions, the bold and eloquent advocate and defender of order, morality, and religion; and we have reason to believe that the religion of his fathers impressed upon his youthful mind, and cherished in matured in his riper years, did, under the blessing of God, vouchsafe to him in death its hopes, its consolations, and its salvation.

*When Mr. Miller closed his remarks—*

Mr. King immediately rose and said that the melancholy event which had been announced with so much eloquence and so much feeling by the friend and colleague of the deceased, left him but little further to add. It had been his good fortune to have been for many years intimately acquainted with the distinguished individual now no more. He had known him in public and in private life, and could bear full testimony to his kindness of heart and amiableness of disposition, as well as to the uniform courtesy and ability with which he discharged the arduous duties confided to him by this distinguished and illustrious body.

He is gone, (said Mr. K.) and it now becomes our last melancholy duty to pay to his memory that tribute of respect so deservedly due. I therefore beg leave to submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, unanimously, That a committee be appointed to take order for superintending the funeral of the Hon. Samuel L. Southard, which will take place tomorrow at 12 o'clock; that the Senate will attend the same, and that notice thereof be given to the House of Representatives.

Resolved, unanimously, That the members of the Senate, from a sincere desire of showing every mark of respect due to the memory of the Hon. Samuel L. Southard, the late President pro tempore thereof, will go late mourning for him one month, by the usual mode of wearing crape on the left arm.

Resolved, unanimously, That, as an additional mark of respect for the memory of the Hon. Samuel L. Southard, the Senate do now adjourn.

And the Senate then adjourned.

#### *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989*

A Senator from New Jersey; born in Basking Ridge, Somerset County, N.J., June 9, 1787; attended the village school; was graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton College) in 1804; engaged as tutor in a private family near Fredericksburg, Va., in 1805; studied law, and was admitted to the bar in Virginia in 1809; returned to New Jersey and commenced practice in Flemington in 1811; appointed law reporter of the supreme court by the State legislature in 1814; member of the State general assembly from October 14 to October 31, 1815, when he resigned, having been appointed to the State supreme court bench; associate justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court 1815-1820; moved to Trenton, N.J.; recorder of Trenton in 1818; presidential elector on the Democratic ticket of Monroe and Tompkins in 1820; appointed and subsequently elected to the United States to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of James J. Wilson and served from January 26, 1821 to March 3, 1823, when he resigned, having been tendered a Cabinet portfolio by President Monroe; it is a remarkable

circumstance that Senator Southard and his father, Representative Henry Southard, should both be Members of the 16th Congress, and more especially for both to be members of the joint committee of the two Houses which reported the famous Missouri compromise measure; Secretary of the Navy from September 6, 1823 to March 3, 1829; Secretary of War ad interim in 1824; Secretary of the Treasury ad interim from March 7 to July 1, 1825; attorney general of New Jersey 1829-1833; elected Governor of New Jersey October 26, 1832, and served until February 23, 1833, when he resigned to become Senator; elected as a Whig to the United States Senate in 1833; reelected in 1839, and served from March 4, 1833 until his death; was President pro tempore of the Senate from March 4, 1841 to May 31, 1842, when he resigned from his office; died in Fredericksburg, Va., June 26, 1842; interment in the Congressional Cemetery.

Son of Henry Southard and brother of Isaac Southard, Representatives from New Jersey.