

Uriah Tracy

(2 Feb 1755 – 19 Jul 1807)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative and Senator from Connecticut; born in Franklin, Conn., February 2, 1755; was graduated from Yale College in 1778; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1781 and commenced practice in Litchfield, Conn.; major general of militia (Connecticut Men in the Revolution lists the name of Uriah Tracy, in a company that marched from sundry places for the relief of Boston, etc., in the Lexington alarm, 1775, and were formed into an independent and ranging company at Roxbury. The military services of Senator Tracy were of a clerical nature for a short period; member to the State house of representatives 1788-1793, serving as speaker in 1793; State's attorney for Litchfield County 1794-1799; October 13, 1796; elected to the U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Jonathan Trumbull; reelected in 1801 and 1807 and served from October 13, 1796 until his death; President pro tempore of the Senate May 14, 1800; died in Washington, D.C. July 19, 1807; interment in the Congressional Cemetery.



First burial of a public person in the new cemetery.

The National Intelligencer, July 22, 1807

Departed this life on the 19th inst. in the 54th year of his age, Uriah Tracy, a Senator of the United States, from the state of Connecticut; and on the following day he was interred with the honors due to his station and character, as a statesman, and to his rank as a major general; his pall being supported by the heads of departments and officers of government.

For many years he experienced frequent and severe sickness, and his last illness commenced on the 4th of March last, while attending the funeral of Mr. Baldwin, his former fellow student, and late colleague in the Senate.

In his youth he received a liberal education, and the early part of his active life was devoted to the practice of the law. He was ever an able, popular, and pleasing advocate, and rose to eminence, by the strength of his talents and steady devotion to business.

His last fourteen years were devoted to the service of his country, in her national councils, where he was long and distinguished member, admired by his political friends, and respected by his opponents.

In wit and humor he was unrivalled -- in delivery graceful and perspicuous -- and in argument acute and lucid.

His speeches were sometimes perhaps tinged with severity; but the ardor of debate, the rapidity of his ideas, and the impetuosity of his eloquence constituted an apology. He was firmly attached to the principles of the late administration, which he ever maintained. For some years past, of consequence he has been in opposition: yet he possessed a due share of influence in the body to which he belonged. His death will be deeply deplored by his friends, and from the actual talents he possessed, may justly, be considered a national loss.

Ely, Selden Marvin, *"The District of Columbia In The American Revolution and Patriots of the Revolutionary Period Who Are Interred in the District or In Arlington,"* Columbia Historical Society, Vol 21, pp. 128-154

Senator Uriah Tracey, of Connecticut. "Connecticut Men in the Revolution" lists the name of Uriah Tracey in a company that marched from sundry places for the relief of Boston, etc., in the Lexington Alarm, April, 1775, and were formed into an independent and ranging company of Roxbury. The military services of Senator Tracey were of a clerical nature for a short period. There is nothing on his grave to permanently record his army connection. He was the first congressman to be interred in Congressional Cemetery. This occurred July 19, 1807, by exhumation from Rock Creek.