

William Allen Trimble

(4 Apr 1786 – 13 Dec 1821)

The National Intelligencer, December 14, 1821

Died, in this city, on yesterday morning, the Honorable William A. Trimble, a Senator of the United States from the State of Ohio, aged 35 years. He came to this city in very ill health from Albany, where he had lain ill for some weeks, and declined gradually from the moment of his arrival to that of his death.



We shall briefly shadow out the life and character of the deceased, as far as our information will enable us.

He was educated for the profession of law, and commenced practice in the year 1811 with flattering prospects. In 1812, the war having broken out, he joined the Ohio volunteers under Gen. Hull, and was elected a Major. He was unusually diligent in the study of military tactics, and made correspondent progress.

He was at the surrender of Detroit, in 1812. In the month of October, in the same year, before he was exchanged from captivity, he attached himself to a regiment of volunteers commanded by his brother, Col. Allen Trimble, who was required by Gen. Harrison to reduce the Pottowattamie Villages on St. Joseph's. He officiated as Adjutant in that expedition, and

displayed great vigilance and perseverance.

As soon as exchanged, he received a Major's commission in the Army of the United States.

He was in Fort Erie when it was attacked, and acquitted himself gallantly. He was also engaged in the memorable sortie made from the same place, on the enemy's lines, and there received a wound from which but few supposed he would recover, and the effects of which have brought him to the grave.

In the winter of 1818 he was elected United States Senator from the State of Ohio, and resigned his command in the army. In the discharge of his duties in the Senate, he was assiduous and independent.

He went to the Conferences with the Indians held by Messrs. Cass and Sibley at Chicago, and on Lake Michigan. On this journey he suffered from the inclemency of the weather, and became indisposed.

During his painful illness, he was not heard to repine. He was patient, ardent to accomplish his purposes, and esteemed by all men to be inflexibly honest.

He was not married, but has left a mother and several brothers and sisters to mourn his death.

Owing to the death of Col. Trimble, a Senator from the State of Ohio, no business was yesterday transacted in either House of Congress.

The funeral of the lamented gentleman is to take place this day at 12 o'clock, from the Capitol. He is intended to be buried with the Military honors eminently due to his memory as a gallant soldier, should not the extreme inclemency of the weather prevent it.

The National Intelligencer, Saturday, December 15, 1821

Funeral of Colonel Trimble

The last honors to the remains of our deceased fellow-citizen, were yesterday paid in due form. At half past ten o'clock, the committee of arrangements, pall-bearers, mourners, and marine corps, attended at Mrs. Peyton's boarding house, the late residence of the deceased and the corpse was

removed, in charge of the committee of arrangement, thence to the Senate Chamber. On arriving there, it was deposited in the body of the Chamber, the Senate occupying their seats, and the President of the Senate in the chair. Soon after which, the House of Representatives came in, attended by their Speaker and Clerk, the former of whom was invited to seat at the side of the President.

An impressive exhortation was then pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Ryland, who availed himself of the occasion strongly to inculcate the necessity of preparation, whilst in health, for that end to which all must sooner or later come, and for the Hereafter which is beyond it. He concluded by prayer, in which all present joined.

After this, the Funeral Procession moved from the Capitol, headed by the Marine Corps, commanded by Colonel Henderson, with reversed arms, and solemn music. The pall-bearers were Mr. Johnson, of Ky., Mr. Chandler, Mr. Williams, of Tenn., Mr. Taylor, Mr. Benton, and Mr. Stokes. The surviving Senator, and the Representatives from the State of Ohio, were the mourners and most of the Members of both Houses, besides the Secretaries of State and of War, and other public officers, joined in the train.

Neither House of Congress sat yesterday.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Senator from Ohio; born in Woodford, Ky., April 4, 1786; was graduated from Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky.; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1811, and commenced practice in Highland County, Ohio; adjutant in the campaign against the Potawatomi Indians in 1812; major of Ohio Volunteers May 7, 1812; taken prisoner at the capture of Detroit, major of the 26th U.S. Infantry Marcy 18, 1813; brevetted lieutenant colonel September 17, 1814, for gallantry at Fort Erie, where he was severely wounded; lieutenant colonel of the 1st Infantry November 30, 1814; transferred to the 8th U.S. Infantry May 17, 1815; resigned March 1, 1819; elected to the U.S. Senate and served from March 4, 1819 until his death in Washington, D.C. December 13, 1821. Interment in Congressional Cemetery.