

Lewis Williams

(1 Feb 1782 – 23 Feb 1842)

National Intelligencer, Thursday, February 24, 1842

It is with the most poignant sorrow that we announce the death of the Honorable Lewis Williams, the long known and universally respected Representative from North Carolina, who expired at his lodgings in this city yesterday, after an illness of barely two days' duration. So unexpected was this sad event, so suddenly has it come upon us, that we can scarcely yet contemplate it as a reality. On Sunday he dined with a friend, cheerful, happy, and apparently in the best of health; on Monday, he was at his post in the House of Representatives attending to his public duties; at noon on Wednesday he lies a lifeless corpse. So sudden a death of one so cherished in the affections of his brother Members, and of all who knew him, is indeed an event to "give us pause." And never have we known any similar bereavement to produce a deeper sensation or a more general gloom. The disease which has thus suddenly deprived his country of one of the most honest, most faithful, and most enlightened of Representatives, and one of the purest and most virtuous of men, was, we are informed, bilious pleurisy; it attacked him on Monday, and so rapid was its progress that, although a man of robust frame, it terminated his life in forty-eight hours.

Mr. Williams entered Congress, a Representative from his native State of North Carolina, in December, 1815, and continued such, by repeated elections, to the day of his death, making an unbroken service of more than twenty-six years; a proof at once of his own fidelity to his trust and of the confidence of his constituents very rarely equaled in the history of our Government. He had long been what is termed "the Father of the House;" but notwithstanding that venerable title and the length of service it implied, he had reached the age of only fifty-six years. A sincere christian, he was a man of the strictest morals, and one of the most conscientious and unswerving public servants whom we have ever known. Such, indeed, were his merits, public and personal, and such his eminent value as a Representative, that we look upon his death as a serious loss to the whole country, as well as to his immediate constituents.

National Intelligencer, Friday, February 25, 1842

Funeral of Lewis Williams

Order of Procession for the Funeral of the Hon. Lewis Williams, a Representative in the Congress of the United States from North Carolina.

The Committee of Arrangements, pall-bearers, and mourners, will attend at Mrs. Peyton's the late residence of the deceased, at 11 o'clock a.m. tomorrow, at which time the corpse will be removed in charge of the Committee of Arrangements, attended by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives, to the Hall of the House.

At 12 o'clock M. Funeral Service will be performed in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and immediately thereafter the procession will move to the Congressional Burial Ground in the following order:

1. Chaplains of both Houses of Congress
2. Physicians who attended the deceased
3. Committee of Arrangements
 - Mr. Rayner, of N.C.
 - Mr. J.Q. Adams, of Mass.
 - Mr. W.C. Johnson, of Md.
 - Mr. Pope, of Ky.
 - Mr. Hopkins, of Va.
 - Mr. Everett, of Vt.

Mr. Saunders, of N.C.

4. Pall-Bearers

Mr. Saltonstall, of Mass.	Mr. Miller, of Mi.
Mr. Habersham, of Ga.	Mr. Granger, of N.Y.
Mr. Taliaferro, of Va.	Mr. Butler, of Ky.
Mr. T.J. Campbell, of Tenn.	Mr. Mason, of Ohio

5. The family and friends of the deceased

6. The Senators and Representatives from the State of North Carolina as mourners

7. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives

8. The House of Representatives of the United States preceded by the Speaker and Clerk

9. The other officers of the House of Representatives

10. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate

11. The Senate, preceded by their President and Secretary

12. The other officers of the Senate

13. The President of the United States (John Tyler)

14. The Heads of Departments

15. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States and its officers

16. The Diplomatic Corps

17. The Comptrollers, Auditors, and other Heads of Bureaus of the several Departments of the Government, with their offices

18. Officers of the Army and Navy at the seat of Government

19. The Mayor of Washington (Seaton)

20. Citizens and Strangers.

The National Intelligencer, February 25, 1845

IN THE SENATE

Mr. Graham of North Carolina, rose and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President: I was a spectator of the melancholy event which is announced in the message from the House. It was the result of a sudden and violent attack of disease which, defying all remedy, proved fatal in less than thirty six hours from its commencement. On Monday, Mr. Williams was in his seat until the close of the session of the House. On Wednesday, within little more than an hour after the meeting of the House, he lay a lifeless corpse. Of the dreadful lesson which is taught by this most unexpected calamity, it is fitting that others should speak with more propriety than myself. But the occasion gives rise to a few reflections in which I hope to be indulged. A public servant has been struck down by the hand of death, almost in the harness of his public labors—a man whose long life of near sixty years has been devoted to useful, honorable, and patriotic service. The occurrence is well calculated to arrest the ordinary course of thought and action here, and to turn our minds to the contemplation of that awful change to which we are all ultimately destined. It reminds us, too, that the older men are passing away from the public councils, and naturally excites some inquiry as to the life and character of him who has so long shared in the deliberations of Congress, and in the gratitude and confidence of his countrymen.

Mr. Williams was a native of the county of Surrey, North Carolina, in which he always continued his residence. His education was liberal, having been graduated at the University of his native State, and having remained some time subsequently as a tutor in the same institution. Not very long afterwards he was chosen by the Legislature a member of the Board of Trustees of the University, of which he was ever one of the most vigilant, active, and faithful guardians. Anxious to be useful in the employment of the country, he seems early to have contemplated a public career. In the year 1814 he was returned from the county of Surrey one of the members of the House of Commons in the General Assembly of

the State; and, although a young man, he took a prominent part in the proceedings of the ensuing session. In 1815 he was elected the Representative in the Congress of the United States, of the 13th Congressional District, which embraces the county of his residence; and at every election since that time he has been returned by the same constituency to the same station. Of his talents and services as a Member of Congress it would be superfluous to speak here, in the scene of his labors, and among his early and later associates. His legislative history is incorporated with the history of the country for more than a quarter of a century, in one continued series, and is found in the journals and documents of the House, the reports of its committees, and the register of its debates during that period. Few members of the House ever performed more useful and laborious service than did Mr. Williams for many years, while he acted as the chairman of the Committee of Claims, in adjusting the numerous demands on the Government which grew out of transactions connected with the late war with Great Britain. And none, it is believed ever possessed the confidence of his associates in legislation in a greater degree. With a mind patient, laborious, and strictly impartial, he supplied himself diligently to this branch of the business of Congress, and was found so generally accurate that his opinions acquired the greatest weight. His continuous service for so many years not only made him the Father of the House by seniority of membership, but his intimate acquaintance with public affairs, his enlightened views of the structure and policy of our Government, and his inflexible honesty and manliness of character, rendered him one of the most valuable of the public counselors. But, sir, it is not so much his public action in the high places of the country, and his capacities to be serviceable there, that I wish particularly to mark. His character will bear closer examination and a severer scrutiny. I wish to bear my humble testimony to the eminent purity of his private life and moral integrity, and to speak what I believe is the common sentiment in his wide circle of acquaintance, that, during his long public career, neither the angry contests of parties, the temptations of ambition, of avarice, of vice, have sullied his name with a single action which should cause one moment's regret to his friends. In his public conduct he was manly, frank, ingenuous, and devoted to his duties. It happened to me in my boyhood to have been sent to school in one of the counties of his district; and I well remember to have witnessed the feelings of gratitude, of kindness, and affection with which he was cherished by those who so early and constantly honored him with their confidence, and whom he repaid with such fidelity and distinguished service. Always moral, he became later in life a religious man, and uniformly regulated his conduct by the principles of virtue and a conscientious conviction of duty.

But it was in the charities and kind offices of private and domestic life that Mr. Williams was most favorably known and appreciated. Although he never contracted the relation of marriage, there are those by whom his demise will be as deeply deplored as would be that of their immediate parents. He was a member of a numerous family, the head of which acquired an honorable fame by his patriotism and service in the war of the Revolution, and by his public spirit and elevation of character in after life. A twin brother of my lamented colleague now presides as judge in the courts of Tennessee. His elder brother, Colonel John Williams, was distinguished for his gallantry as an officer during the late war, and for his talents and character at a subsequent period, as a Senator in the body from the State of Tennessee, and in our diplomatic service abroad. A third brother was for a long period the Adjutant General of the State of North Carolina. The two latter, though deceased, have left children. Others of his brothers and near relatives yet survive, and are among the most enlightened, hospitable, and liberal gentlemen, both in North Carolina and Tennessee. On the families of these the intelligence of their bereavement will fall as the thunder from a cloudless sky. To these, however, wherever situated, it will be consoling to know that, though the pangs of his dissolution were severe, they were of short duration, and that he met his fate with the calmness and resignation arising from the consciousness of a well-spent life, and the hope of an immortality beyond the grave.

The resolutions having been sent to the Secretary's table, and read—

Mr. CLAY said: Prompted by a friendship which existed between the deceased and myself of upwards of a quarter of a century's duration, and by the feelings and sympathies which this melancholy occasion excites, will the Senate allow me to add a few words to those which have been so well and so appropriately expressed by my friend near me, (Mr. Graham,) in seconding the motion he has just made?

Already, during the present Session, has Congress and each House, paid the annual installment of the great debt of Nature. We could not have lost two more worthy and estimable men those who have been taken from us. My acquaintance with the lamented Lewis Williams commenced in the fall of 1815, when he first took his seat as a member of the House of Representatives from the State of North Carolina, and I re-entered the House after my return from Europe. From that period until his death a cordial and unbroken friendship has subsisted between us; and similar ties were subsequently created with almost every member of his highly respectable family.

When a vacancy arose in the responsible and laborious office of chairman of the Committee of Claims, which had been previously filled by another distinguished and lamented son of North Carolina, (the late Mr. Yancey,) in virtue of authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the House, I appointed Mr. Williams to fill it. Always full of labor, and requiring unremitting industry, it was then, in consequence of claims originating in the late war, more than ever toilsome. He discharged its complicated duties with the greatest diligence, ability, impartiality, and uprightness, and continued in the office until I left the House in the year 1825. He occasionally took part in the debates which sprung up on great measures brought forward for the advancement of the interests of the country, and was always heard with profound attention, and, I believe, with a thorough conviction of his perfect integrity. Inflexibly adhering always to what he believed to be right, if he ever displayed warmth or impatience, it was excited by what he thought was insincere, or base, or ignoble. In short, Lewis Williams was a true and faithful image of the respectable State which he so long and so ably served in the National Councils—intelligent, quiet, unambitious, loyal to the Union, and uniformly patriotic.

We all feel and deplore with the greatest sensibility the heavy loss we have so suddenly sustained. May it impress us with a just sense of the frailty and uncertainty of human life! And, profiting by his example, may we all be fully prepared for that which is so soon to follow!

The resolutions were then adopted in the following words:

Resolved, That the Senate has received with deep sensibility the communication from the House of Representatives, announcing the death of the Hon. Lewis Williams, a Representative from the State of North Carolina.

Resolved, That in token of sincere and high respect for the memory of the deceased, the Senate will attend the funeral at 12 o'clock tomorrow, the hour appointed by the House of Representatives, and will wear crape on the left arm for thirty days; and, as a further mark of respect—

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn. And the Senate adjourned accordingly.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Journal of yesterday having been read and approved—Mr. Rayner of North Carolina, addressed the House as follows:

Mr. Speaker: I rise to perform a most painful and melancholy duty. Painful, most unaffectedly painful, it is to me; and melancholy it ought to be, and must be, in the associations accompanying it, to the members of this House. The Hon. Lewis Williams, a member of this House from North Carolina, is no more. He who has been so long and I may say so affectionately entitled "the Father of this House," has finished his earthly career. He expired at his boarding house in this city, about half-past one o'clock p.m. on yesterday, after a short but most violent illness of only thirty-six hours in duration. All that medical attention and the kindness of friends could do were exerted in his behalf, but all in vain. From the commencement of his attack death seemed to have marked him for its own.

I am well aware that no words of mine can avail him naught; no sympathy of ours can restore him to his country and his friends. And it now only remains for us to perform the last sad rites to his memory, before we consign him to that "dust whence he sprang."

If I may be allowed to refer to the relations between him and myself, he was not only my colleague but my friend. I have known him long, and known him well. Ever since I first formed his acquaintance, he has extended to me that friendship and that confidence; of which of anyone who knew him might justly feel proud. How mysterious is Divine Providence, how weak is human knowledge! Little, ah little, did I suppose one week since that I should thus be called on to announce to this House that this political patriarch had fallen! What a sad commentary is this upon human vanity—upon the strife of contending factions. But three days since he was in the discharge of his duties on this floor—now he lies extended on the bed of death!

The deceased was in the fifty-eighth year of his age. He presented one of those rare instances in our history, of a man whose whole life may be said to have been devoted to the public service of his country. He first entered political life in 1813, when he was elected to represent his native country in the Legislature of North Carolina; and so satisfactory was his conduct there, that in the following year he was elected to represent the district in which he resided in the House of Representatives of the United States, of which body he continued, without intermission, to be a member till the period of his death.

The history of his life affords a practical refutation of the oft-repeated slander, that a long course of public service is incompatible with private virtues and personal honor. It is equally illustrative of that endearing confidence which should ever exist between the constituent and the representative—and of the need of approbation which an honest people are ever willing to accord to a faithful public servant.

It needs no labored eulogy from me, to do justice to the manner in which he discharged his duties on this floor. It is a matter of history that, from his first appearance here, he was marked for his habits of industry, and his meekness of character, combined with energy, sterling sense, and disinterestedness of purpose. Those who have served with him, whether for a longer or a shorter period, know that he was always among the first in his seat, and the last to leave it. He always kept a vigilant eye on the progress of business through t his House; and was ever as ready to sustain and advocate those measures, which he believed to be for the good of his country, as to oppose those which he believed to be founded in injustice and wrong. The duties of his station he never neglected. Neither the inclemency of weather, nor personal inconvenience, ever restrained him from the performance of his trust. He was for years favorably known to this House and to the country, as the able and efficient chairman of the Committee of Claims; and it is well known that whilst he always guarded the public treasure, like a faithful sentinel, he never turned a deaf ear to the well-founded claims of justice.

His talents were of the useful and most, and not of the showy and ostentatious order. He seemed to think that the duty of the statesman consisted in acting for the welfare of his country, and not in speaking for the entertainment of his hearers. He spoke but rarely, and then but briefly and directly to the subject. His object was usefulness, and not display. His style was as terse and bold as it was vigorous and unaffected. And we all know how often, in moments of confusion, a few words from his lips removed our difficulties, and relieved the House from embarrassment.

In his intercourse with his fellow-members, I need not say, what is well known here, that he was uniformly mild, conciliatory, and amiable. Although remarkable for the firmness and tenacity with which he adhered to his purposes and his principles, yet those who knew him well know that he always exercised a becoming charity for the honest difference of opinion entertained by others. He was distinguished for the decorum and orderly propriety of his deportment. And never, in the most trying and exciting scenes, did he so far forget the dignity of his station, as to suffer his feelings to triumph over his judgment. A rigid advocate for the maintenance of order, he always strengthened his precept by the force of his example.

Such he was as a public man in the discharge of public duty. But it was equally in his private and social relations, that his character presented an example worthy of imitation. His firm and unbending integrity, his uncompromising devotion to principle, his scrupulous regard for truth, sincerity, and honor, have long been proverbial. A warm and devoted friend, a charitable and kind-hearted man, his heart was always responsive to the appeals of sympathy, his purse was ever open to the voice of distress! Such being the case, may we not well and truly exclaim—an honest and virtuous man has died! His course has, indeed, been an eventful one. With a calm and contemplative mind, he has for more than a quarter of a century, viewed the shifting scenes on the great drama of his country's history; and during the darkest periods of that country's peril, he has clung to her with patriotic affection. He has seen peace and war, prosperity and calamity, excitement and calm, succeeding in their turns. He has seen parties and administrations, factions and dynasties, rise and fall. Yet during all the twenty-eight years of his public career, censorious as is the world, the tongue of slander has never whispered ought against his integrity and his virtue. To the last he continued to "fight the good fight," and to "keep that faith," which is based on the true principles of liberty, and an unwavering devotion to the free institutions of his country. Let me not be misunderstood; I have no allusion to party.

No matter how others may be affected, his colleagues know how to appreciate his loss. How often, in the hour of difficulty, have we consulted his sound practical wisdom and tried integrity! He stood, as it were, an impersonation of the character of the "Old North State," whose interests he represented so faithfully, and which he loved so well—combining energy with calmness, patriotism and virtue with unpretending simplicity. Although his ears will no more listen to the murmuring of waters from her western mountains; although his eyes will no more be gladdened with the view of his dear native hills; yet his memory will live in the hearts of his confiding constituents, and be handed down with reverence to their succeeding children.

Although we mourn his loss, yet we have the consolation to know, that he died in "the triumphs of that faith" to whose precepts he conformed in life. At an early age he attached himself to the Presbyterian church, and continued an exemplary member of the same down to the period of his death. He never suffered public duty or private pleasure to interfere with the discharge of those duties which he owed to his God. To his latest breath he looked with humble and calm resignation to that Great and Good Being, in whom he trusted when living, and whom he "confessed before men." Those of us who witnessed his last moments, have had read to us the impressive and never-to-be-forgotten lesson, with what quite composure a Christian can die. He has left this world forever; but still

The sweet remembrance of the just
Shall flourish while he sleeps in dust.

Mr. Rayner then sent to the Clerk's table the following resolutions:

Resolved: That the House has heard with the liveliest sensibility the annunciation of the death of the Hon. Lewis Williams, late a Member from the State of North Carolina, and the oldest Member in service in this House.

Resolved: That this House tenders to the relatives of the deceased the expression of its sympathy on this afflicting event; and as a testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased, the Members and Officers will wear crape on the left arm for thirty days.

Resolved: That the Members and Officers of this House will attend the Funeral of the Hon. Lewis Williams, deceased, late a Member of this House, tomorrow at 12 o'clock meridian.

Resolved: That a committee be appointed to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

The resolutions having been read—

Mr. ADAMS rose and said: Mr. Speaker: I second the motion, and ask the indulgence of the House for the utterance of a few words, from a heart full to overflowing with anguish, which no words can express.

Sir, my acquaintance with Mr. Williams commenced with the second Congress of his service in this House. Twenty-five years have since elapsed, during all which he has been always here at his post, always true to his trust, always adhering faithfully to his constituents and to his country—always, and through every political vicissitude and revolution, adhered faithfully by them. I have often thought that this steadfastness of mutual attachment between the Representative and the Constituent was characteristic of both; and, concurring with the idea just expressed with such touching eloquence by his colleague, (Mr. Raynes,) I have habitually looked upon Lewis Williams as the true portraiture and personification of the People of North Carolina.

Sir, the loss of such a man, at any time, to his country, would be great. To this House, at this juncture, it is irreparable. His wisdom, his experience, his unsullied integrity, his ardent patriotism, his cool and deliberate judgment, his conciliatory temper, his firm adherence to principle—where shall we find a substitute for them? In the distracted state of our public counsels, with the wormwood and the gall of personal animosities adding tenfold bitterness to the conflict of rival interests and discordant opinions, how shall we have to deplore the bereavement of his presence, the very light of whose countenance, the very sound of whose voice, could recall us, like a talisman, from the tempest of hostile passions to the calm composure of harmony and peace.

Mr. Williams was and had long been, in the official language which we have adopted from the British House of Commons, the Father of the House; and though my junior by nearly twenty years, I have looked up to him, in t his House, with the reverence of filial affection, as if he was the father of us all. The seriousness and gravity of his character, tempered as it was with habitual cheerfulness and equanimity, peculiarly fitted him for that relation to the other members of the House, while the unassuming courtesy of his deportment and the benevolence of his disposition invited every one to consider him as a brother.

Sir, he is gone! The places that have known him shall know him no more; but his memory shall be treasured up by the wise and the good of his contemporaries, as eminent among the patriots and statesmen of this our native land; and were it possible for any Northern bosom, within this Hall, ever to harbor for one moment a wish for the dissolution of our National Union, may the spirit of our departed friend, pervading every particle of the atmosphere around us, dispel the delusion of his soul by reminding him, that in that even he would no longer be the countryman of Lewis Williams!

Mr. W.C. JOHNSON rose and said: I rise, Mr. Speaker, to add my humble tribute to the virtues and memory of a departed friend—one whom I am truly say stood to me in the place of a father; for, when young and inexperienced, I first entered this Hall, it was to him I was indebted for the prudent counsel and kind aid which inexperience always finds grateful from the head and heart of such a man. His public career, identified for more than a quarter of a century with the legislation of this House, is one upon which every patriot should delight to gaze. "As Aristides, just; as Cato, pure;" he has stood before the world the advocate of justice to individuals and the Government.

His indomitable and unbending integrity, his consistency as a politician, and his adherence to the best interests of his country, are too distinguished even for eulogy.

Remarkable for his sound judgment and common sense, his voice was never raised without instruction; and his purposes were never perverted amid the excitement of party feeling.

Though not brilliant and eloquent, yet men of brilliancy and eloquence in this Hall were his inferiors; and his light, safe and steadfast, shone even over the path of more aspiring statesmen.

Sudden and melancholy as is his death, he was still spared long and faithfully to serve his native State, and his memory will be among the richest of her treasures.

When called to visit my departed friend, I found him sinking into death, and at the bed side of the dying patriot I realized the loss which I, this House, and this country have sustained. And I cannot repress the utterance of my deep grief at this sudden and overwhelming bereavement.

It is with an aching heart I have now risen to speak the language of a long-cherished affection for a friend, a patriot, and an honest man.

The question was then taken on the adoption of the resolutions, and they were unanimously adopted. On motion of Mr. Stanly the usual message was ordered to be sent to the Senate. And then the House adjourned.

The National Intelligencer, Saturday, February 26, 1842

Congress--The Funeral

The funeral solemnities of the Hon. Lewis Williams, for so many years one of the Representatives of the State of North Carolina, took place in the Representatives Hall, yesterday, at the appointed hour. The general esteem in which the deceased was held in this community, and the universal regret which his death has occasioned, drew an unusually large assemblage of the citizens of Washington, and others now at the seat of Government, as well as of the Members of the House, to witness the solemn and impressive scene. The galleries were crowded. But all audible conversation was suppressed; and over the whole assembly gathered to witness the ceremony an unwonted silence prevailed. Soon after twelve o'clock, the Committee of Arrangements entered the Hall, wearing white scarves, and followed by the Pall-bearers, and then by the Body, which was enclosed in a coffin covered with black velvet and having on it a plain silver plate bearing the usual inscription. The North Carolina Representation followed, as mourners, in black scarves, and took the seats prepared for their reception, opposite to the bier, on the left. The Rev. Septimus Tuston, one of the Chaplains to Congress, assumed his place at the Clerk's table and immediately in front of the seats of the members. Then came the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court, preceded by the Officers of the Court; and shortly after, the Senate, headed by their President and Sergeant-at-Arms, the Member of the House rising and continuing on their feet until the Members of the co-ordinate Branch of the Legislature were seated in the places assigned them. Major General Scott and General Jones, of the Army, were present, and several members of the Diplomatic Corps evinced their respect to the deceased and to the Government by their personal attendance on the occasion.

The Chaplain then introduced the services by reading, in a deliberate, distinct, and reverential voice, the ninetieth Psalm; which was followed by a prayer eminently appropriate to the event that had, in so sudden and unlooked-for-a manner assembled in that Hall the several Departments of the Government. The Preacher then took, as the ground-work of the eloquent and impressive address which succeeded, the verse of the 8th chapter of Romans: "For I esteem the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." After advertising to the very short time (scarcely a month) which had elapsed since he had been called to address many of the same auditors on a similar occasion, at which time he had dwelt on the gradual and certain decay which was the lot of fallen humanity in this world, he said he had now selected a theme of a more cheering character, viz. the bright and happy contrast in the condition of a Christian man before and after death; which he illustrated in a very just and suitable manner, with much earnestness, solemnity, and tenderness of feeling. Having contemplated the contrast referred to in his text under several different aspects, he came to the event which had recently occurred, and spoke of the deceased member in a manner peculiarly delicate and judicious, referring to the eloquent and touching eulogies which had been pronounced upon his character in both Houses of Congress on the preceding day, and to the sketch there presented of his life and leading public services. The view on which he preferred to dwell had reference to his long, open, uniform, unpretending but consistent, and unblemished profession of the

religion of Christ, on which he dilated with a soothing satisfaction. The discourse closed with a brief but affecting appeal to everyone present to prepare for the change which awaits us all.

The religious services having terminated, the line of procession was taken up, in the order reported in the program prepared by the Committee of Arrangements, and, proceeding out of the Hall and through the Rotunda, entered the carriages in waiting, which, wheeling in succession through the north gate of the Capitol square, formed in line on the broad road that leaves the southeast corner of the Capitol grounds; whence it moved on to the Congressional burying ground, where the body was deposited in the receiving vault, until a tomb, similar to those which mark the final resting place of so many deceased Members, can be prepared for its last earthly home

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from North Carolina; born in Surrey County, N. Carolina, February 1, 1782; was graduated from the University of N. Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1808; member of the State house of commons in 1813 and 1814; elected to the 14th through 27th Congresses and served from March 4, 1815 until his death; was known as the "Father of the House"; died in Washington, D.C., February 23, 1842; placed in the public vault at Congressional Cemetery February 25, 1842 to March 9, 1842; interment in Panther Creek Cemetery, Surrey County, N.C.

(Brother of John Williams of Tennessee and Robert Williams and cousin of Marmaduke Williams)