

## Thomas Hartley Crawford

(14 Nov 1786 – 27 Jan 1863)

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

A Representative from Pennsylvania; born in Chambersburg, Pa., November 14, 1786; was graduated from Princeton College in 1804; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1807 and commenced practice in Chambersburg; elected as a Jackson Democrat to the 21st and 22nd Congresses (March 4, 1829 to March 3, 1833); member of the State house of representatives in 1833 and 1834; appointed a commissioner to investigate alleged frauds in the sale of the Creek Reservation in 1836; appointed by President Van Buren Commissioner of Indian Affairs and served from October 22, 1838 to October 30, 1845; appointed by President Polk as judge of the criminal court of the District of Columbia in 1845 and served until 1861, when the court was reorganized; died in Washington, D.C., January 27, 1863; interment in the Congressional Cemetery.



*The Evening Star, January 27, 1863*

#### Death of Judge Crawford

This morning, at the usual hour to enter upon the session of the Criminal Court, Judge Merrick (who has been presiding during the sessions of the term, on account of the illness of Hon. T.H. Crawford) announced to the bar and juries the decease of that venerable and esteemed Judge of the Court, which occurred between three and four o'clock this morning, at his family residence, on E, between Sixth and Seventh sts.

Judge Merrick briefly announced the fact, and remarked that he thought the time inappropriate for him to eulogize the deceased while the body is yet warm. Judge Merrick addressed himself to the juries, and thanked them for their prompt and proper attention to the business required of them; and informed them that the court necessarily ceased by the death of the judge, and he discharged the juries.

Judge Crawford has been afflicted for many years, and even when apparently cheerful in the disposal of business, he was suffering extremely. From his most intimate friends, members of the bar, we learn that he had arrived at near 78 years of age, and the complication of disease and old age were probably the cause of death.

Judge Crawford has been known to our oldest citizens for many years, during which he honored the respective positions of a member of Congress, Commissioner of Indian Affairs and judge of the criminal court.

The members of the bar have not yet held a meeting in view of the decease of Judge Crawford, but one has been called for tomorrow, at which the legal profession will be fully represented.

*The Evening Star, January 28, 1863*

#### Tribute to the Memory of Judge Crawford

A meeting of the members of the bar and of the officers of the Criminal Court was convened yesterday afternoon in the courtroom to take some action relative to the death of Judge T.H. Crawford.

On motion of Joseph H. Bradley, Esq., Richard S. Coxe, Esq., was called to the chair, and E.J. Middleton appointed secretary.

E.C. Carrington, Esq. (District Attorney), addressed the meeting, and paid a high tribute to the memory of deceased. Judge Crawford, he said, had served in early life as a Representative in Congress from Pennsylvania, of which State he was a native. He afterwards received the appointment of Commissioner of Indian Affairs and was subsequently appointed Judge of the Criminal Court by President Polk.

Integrity, purity, energy and patriotism were his distinguishing characteristics. His private life was unstained by a single vice. As a citizen no one cherished a more sincere or ardent devotion to his country and her institutions. As a scholar and as a lawyer his accurate and comprehensive literary and legal acquirements were acknowledge and admired by all who knew him, and as a judge his wisdom and purity, his conscientious devotion to the duties of his position, adorned the office and were the safeguards of individuals, and of the welfare of the community.

Now that his seat is vacant we can but recall with emotion the sight that was so often presented to us, at once sublime and sad, the venerable Judge, infirm in body, but still vigorous in mind, striving with manly fortitude to resist the encroachments of disease and age, and to infuse the vigor of his clear intellect into the duties of his high office.

He has, at last, passed away. His last moments were calm and peaceful, and he passed away without expressing a fear or a regret.

Mr. Carrington closed by moving the appointment of a committee of five to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting.

Messrs. Carrington, Bradley, Carlisle, Norris and Mattingly were appointed, and after retiring for a few moments returned and reported resolutions.

First, expressing sympathy with the family and friends of deceased.

The second resolution notes the friendship and courtesy he always manifested and the honesty and conscientiousness which always characterized Judge Crawford in the discharge of his duty.

The third resolution recommends the wearing of the usual badge of mourning for thirty days, and as a further mark of respect, that the members attend the funeral in a body.

The fourth resolution directs that a copy of the resolutions and proceedings be inscribed upon the minutes of the criminal and circuit courts, and that they be communicated to the family of deceased.

Joseph H. Bradley and J.M. Carlisle, Esqs., made brief remarks expressive of their high appreciation of the character of deceased.

Messrs. G.W. Phillips, John A. Smith and E.C. Morgan were appointed a committee to make arrangements, for attending the funeral in a body.

The meeting then adjourned to assemble at the same place tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock in order to attend the funeral at twelve o'clock.

*The Evening Star, January 29, 1863*

### **Funeral of Judge Crawford**

The funeral of the venerable Judge Crawford took place this morning from his late residence, No. 411 E streets between Sixth and Seventh, and was attended by the members of the Bar in a body, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the Court, the Marshal and Deputy Marshal of the District, and by the employees of the Court generally.

The Grand Jury met this morning and passed resolutions of condolence with the family of the deceased.

The remains of Judge Crawford reposed in the back parlor of his residence, in a mahogany coffin covered with black cloth and lined with white satin, made by Mr. Samuel Kirby, undertaker. The coffin

was ornamented with a silver plate in the form of a heart, bearing the following inscription: "Hon. T. Hartley Crawford, Judge of the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia. Born 14th November, 1786. Died January 27th, 1863." The coffin was also mounted with silver handles, three upon each side and by screws tipped with silver.

The appearance of the deceased in the coffin was very natural, although his face bore the marks of emaciation from disease and old age.

The members of the bar all passed into the room and took a farewell look at all that remained of their late associate. A large number of the personal friends of the deceased, many of them venerable in appearance, were also present to pay a last sad tribute to his memory.

The services were conducted at the house by Rev. P.D. Gurley, D.D., of whose church deceased was a pew holder and regular attendant. In his address Dr. Gurley referred to the upright life deceased had led, and now full of years and honors, and in hope of a blissful immortality, he had departed from our midst.

After the service at the house the remains were conveyed to the Congressional Cemetery, where they were interred.

The following gentlemen acted as pall-bearers: Judge Dunlap, Judge Merrick, W.D. Davidge, J.M. Carlisle, J.H. Bradley, Sr. and E.C. Carrington, Esqs., members of the bar, F.J. Middleton, Clerk of the Court, and Mr. Lamon, Marshal of the District.