

## David Spangler Kaufman

(18 Dec 1813 – 31 Jan 1851)

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

A Representative from Texas; born in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, December 18, 1813; pursued classical studies, and was graduated from Princeton College in 1833; studied law; was admitted to the bar in Natchez, Miss. and commenced practice in Natchitoches, La.; moved to Nacogdoches, Republic of Texas in 1837; served against the Indians; member of the Texas House of Representatives 1839-1843; served in the Texas Senate 1843-1845; appointed Charge d'Affaires of Texas to the United States in 1845; moved to Lowes Ferry, Texas; upon the admission of Texas as a State into the Union was elected as a Democrat to the 29th through 31st Congresses and served from March 30, 1846 until his death in Washington, D.C. on January 31, 1851; interment in the Congressional Cemetery; reinterment in the State Cemetery at Austin, Texas, in 1932.

*The National Intelligencer, February 1, 1851*

### **Death of Mr. Kaufman (of Texas)**

It is our painful duty to announce the decease of the Hon. David S. Kaufman, a Representative in Congress from the State of Texas. About two o'clock yesterday he was in his seat in the House of Representatives, but, feeling a painful sensation about the region of the heart, he returned in a carriage to his lodgings at the United States Hotel. He there lay upon his bed for some time, in apparent tranquil repose, in the presence of his wife. About sunset he spoke, in reply to an observation from his child, and suddenly expired. His disease was an affection of the heart.

Mr. Kaufman was a gentleman who had won general esteem by the amiableness of his disposition, and his death will be deeply regretted by his brother members, and be a loss to his State, in the National Councils, which few of her citizens can supply.

*The National Intelligencer, February 4, 1851*

### **Funeral of Mr. Kaufman**

Both Houses of Congress assembled at 12 o'clock yesterday, in pursuance of their respective orders of Saturday, to attend the funeral of the Hon. David S. Kaufman, late Representative from Texas. The ceremonies took place in the Hall of Representatives. Besides Members of Congress, we noticed amongst the eminent persons present the President of the United States (Fillmore) and his Cabinet, the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Commander-in-chief of the Army, and many members of the Diplomatic Corps. At the conclusion of the religious services in the Hall, which were very impressive, the procession moved to the Congressional Cemetery in the following order:

1. The Chaplains of both Houses of Congress
2. Physicians who attended the deceased
3. Committee of Arrangements
  - Mr. Howard of Texas
  - Mr. Ashmun of Mass.
  - Mr. J. Thompson of Miss.
  - Mr. J.K. Miller of Ohio
  - Mr. McClernand of Illinois
  - Mr. McLanahan, of Penn.
  - Mr. Sheppard of N.C.
  - Mr. F.E. McLean, of Ky.
  - Mr. Morse, of Louisiana

4. Pall-Bearers

Mr. Job Mann of Penn.	Mr. J.G. King of N.J.
Mr. Linn Boyd of Ky.	Mr. J.H. Duncan of Mass
Mr. A. Burt of S. Carolina	Mr. J.L. Taylor of Ohio
Mr. R.W. Johnson of Ark.	Mr. M.P. Gentry of Tenn.
5. The family and friends of the deceased
6. The Senators and Representatives from the State of Texas, as mourners
7. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives
8. The House of Representatives, preceded by their Speaker and Clerk
9. The other officers of the House of Representatives
10. The Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate of the United States
11. The Senate of the United States, preceded by the Vice President of the United States and their Secretary
12. Other officers of the Senate
13. The President of the United States
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. Judges of the United States
18. Officers of the Executive Departments
19. Officers of the Army and Navy
20. The Mayor and Council of Washington
21. Citizens of the State of Texas, now in Washington
22. Citizens and Strangers.

*Maisel, Louis Sandy; Ira N. Forman, Donald Altschiller, Charles Walker Bassett, eds., Jews in American Politics, Lanham : Rowman & Littlefield, 2004, pp. 361-362.*

**KAUFMAN, DAVID SPANGLER**

Member of Congress, 1846-1851

David Spangler Kaufman was born in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, on December 18, 1813. After graduating with high honors from Princeton College in 1830, he studied law under General John A. Quitman in Natchez, Mississippi, and began his legal career in Natchitoches, Louisiana, in 1835. Two years later he settled in Nacogdoches, Texas, where he practiced law and participated in military campaigns against the Cherokee Indians.

Kaufman served as a Democrat in both houses of the Congress of the Republic of Texas from 1838 to 1845; he was speaker of the lower house for the Fourth and Fifth Congresses of the Republic. After annexation to the United States, Kaufman represented the Eastern District of Texas in the United States House of Representatives for three terms. While in Congress, he argued unsuccessfully that Texas owned lands that are now parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma and encouraged Governor Peter H. Bell to have Texas troops seize Santa Fe. Kaufman also played a prominent role in the compromise of 1850, in which the national government assumed the debts of Texas. No other Jewish Texan served in Congress until the 1970s.

Kaufman died in Washington, D.C., on January 31, 1851, and was buried in the District of Columbia Congressional Cemetery. In 1932, his remains were moved to the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. Kaufman County and the city of Kaufman in Texas are both named for him. (BB)