

= Francis White (Virginia) =

Francis White (1761 ? October 6 , 1826) was a distinguished early American lawyer and politician in what was then the U.S. state of Virginia (now West Virginia) .

White served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates , representing Hampshire County , and later served as a member of the Virginia State Senate , representing Berkeley , Hampshire , Hardy , and Morgan counties . He represented Virginia 's 2nd congressional district in the United States House of Representatives during the 13th United States Congress . White also served as the sheriff of Hampshire County .

White was the grandson of Virginia pioneer settler and physician Dr. Robert White (1688 ? 1752) ; thus , he was a member of the prominent White political family of Virginia and West Virginia . He was the nephew of United States House Representative Alexander White (1738 ? 1804) , and the brother of Virginia judge Robert White (1759 ? 1831) .

= = Early life = =

Francis White was born in 1761 at Hayfield , near Winchester in Frederick County , Colony of Virginia . White was the son of John White and his wife , Ann Patton White . Through his grandfather , Dr. Robert White (1688 ? 1752) , Francis White was of Scottish descent . His uncle was Alexander White (1738 ? 1804) , an inaugural member of the United States House of Representatives .

White attended the common schools in Winchester . Following his education , White engaged in agricultural pursuits along the Cacapon and North rivers in Hampshire County , Virginia (now West Virginia) . By 1813 , White was operating a gristmill and a sawmill on his Hampshire County property .

= = Political career = =

= = = Virginia House of Delegates = = =

White was elected to represent the multi @-@ member electoral district of Hampshire County in the Virginia House of Delegates for three terms : 1794 , 1809 to 1813 , and 1818 to 1823 . In his 1794 term , White served alongside Isaac Parsons ; from 1809 to 1813 , he served alongside Alexander King , from 1818 to 1823 , White served alongside William Armstrong , Jr . , Ephraim Dunn , and Edward McCarty .

During the 1809 election for Hampshire County 's two seats in the Virginia House of Delegates , White ran against fellow Federalist Alexander King , and Democratic @-@ Republicans William Donaldson and Jonathan Pugh . King received the most votes at 312 , and White came in second with 288 votes , thus qualifying him for a seat . White ran for reelection in 1811 against Alexander King , William Armstrong , and Jonathan Pugh . White and King received the two highest vote totals , with White receiving 313 votes . White was reelected to his seat in 1812 , with 336 votes .

Following his election along with Ephraim Dunn in 1821 , White returned to the Virginia House of Delegates , representing Hampshire County . In the 1822 election , White ran for election against Ephraim Dunn and George Park , with Dunn and White winning Hampshire County 's two seats in the Virginia House of Delegates . White received the most votes , with 276 .

In 1795 , while serving in the Virginia House of Delegates , White was either elected or appointed to serve as a justice of the peace in Hampshire County , along with Alexander King , William Vause , John Jack , Virgil McCrackin , and John Snyder .

= = = United States House of Representatives = = =

White was elected unopposed as a Federalist representing Virginia 's 2nd congressional district in

the United States House of Representatives during the 13th United States Congress (March 4 , 1813 ? March 3 , 1815) . White 's election in 1813 occurred during an ascendancy of the Federalist Party throughout Virginia .

White served on the United States House Committee on the District of Columbia . According to GovTrack , from May 1813 to March 1815 , White missed 56 of 352 roll call votes (15 @. @ 9 %) . White resided at the Law 's Ten Buildings boarding house of Mrs. Lane on New Jersey Avenue in Washington , D.C. during the May 24 ? August 2 , 1813 session and the December 6 , 1813 ? April 18 , 1814 session .

White ran for reelection in 1815 , but he lost to fellow Federalist Magnus Tate with 420 votes (36 @. @ 65 percent of the vote) , while Tate had 726 .

= = = Virginia State Senate = = =

Following his term in the United States House of Representative , White continued to operate his farms on the Cacapon and North rivers . In 1823 , White was elected as a member of the Virginia State Senate , defeating opponent candidate Ignatius O 'Ferrall . White held the seat until 1824 . White 's seat in the Virginia State Senate represented District 6 , which consisted of Berkeley , Hampshire , Hardy , and Morgan counties .

While serving in the Virginia State Senate , White was appointed sheriff of Hampshire County on December 9 , 1823 , by Virginia Governor James Pleasants . On Thursday , January 1 , 1824 , White informed the Virginia State Senate of his appointment to the position of Hampshire County sheriff , and he asked for an opinion as to whether he could retain his senate seat while serving as sheriff . White 's inquiry was referred to the senate 's Committee of Privileges and Elections for " consideration and a report of their opinion thereupon to the House . " The following day , on Friday , January 2 , 1824 , the Committee of Privileges and Elections delivered their opinion : White should vacate his senate seat upon his acceptance of the position of Hampshire County sheriff , and the sheriffs of the senate district 's four counties were directed to hold a special election to " supply the vacancy occasioned . " On Tuesday , February 3 , 1824 , the Virginia State Senate certified the election of Elisha Boyd to fill White 's senate seat .

= = Later life and death = =

White continued to serve as Hampshire County 's sheriff until his death . White died on October 6 , 1826 , at his residence on the Cacapon River in Hampshire County . He was interred at the White Family Graveyard at Hayfield in Frederick County , Virginia .

= = Personal life and family = =

White married his first cousin , Margaret White , in Frederick County on December 5 , 1787 . Margaret White was the daughter of White 's uncle , Robert White II . White and his wife had at large family , with at least six children :

Robert Norvell White , married Matilda McBride , daughter of John McBride

Thomas B. White

John A. White

Francis White , Jr . (1799 ? September 8 , 1868)

Unnamed daughter , married to a Mr. Keyes

Mary M. White McDonald (1811 ? February 7 , 1839) , married Evan McDonald , son of Benjamin and Margaret Hiatt McDonald

= = Land ownership = =

White amassed extensive landholdings in Hampshire County . In 1797 , White purchased 233 acres (0 @. @ 94 km2) along the North River in Hampshire County from Henry and Rachael Pierce of

Cecil County , Maryland . White purchased an additional 20 acres (0 @. @ 081 km2) along the North River in 1800 . At the time of his election to the United States House of Representatives , White was a resident of Romney .