

= Robert White (West Virginia senator) =

Robert White (May 28 , 1876 ? August 15 , 1935) was an American lawyer and Democratic politician in the U.S. state of West Virginia . White served four consecutive terms as the Prosecuting Attorney for Hampshire County (1912 ? 1928) , and served one term in the West Virginia Senate (1930 ? 1934) representing the state 's Fifteenth Senatorial District in the 40th and 41st Sessions of the West Virginia Legislature . During the 1933 legislative year , White served as the floor leader for the Democratic Party members of the West Virginia Senate .

White was born in Romney , West Virginia in 1876 to Hampshire County Clerk of Court Christian Streit White (1839 ? 1917) and his second wife Catharine Steele White (1837 ? 1869) and was the grandson of Hampshire County Clerk of Court John Baker White (1794 ? 1862) . White was educated at Potomac Academy and began his career in public service at the age of 16 as Deputy Clerk of Court in his father 's law office . He studied jurisprudence at the West Virginia University College of Law graduating in 1899 .

He began practicing law in Romney and was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Hampshire County in 1912 . White was elected to the position four times , and served terms from 1912 to 1928 . In addition , he served as the Commissioner of School Lands and as one of the Chancery Commissioners for Hampshire County . White was elected to represent the Fifteenth Senatorial District in the West Virginia Senate in 1930 and served in the senate until 1934 . In 1933 , White was chairman of the senate 's Judiciary Committee and he was also appointed to two special committees : one on economy and efficiency to study state and municipal government spending , and another to investigate the road commission 's awarding of a contract for gasoline , oil , and grease to the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey over the Elk Refining Company .

Following a prolonged illness , White died in Romney in 1935 at the age of 59 .

= = Early life and education = =

Robert White was born on May 28 , 1876 in Romney , West Virginia . He was the second child of Hampshire County Clerk of Court Christian Streit White (1839 ? 1917) and his second wife Catharine Steele White (1837 ? 1869) , and the third eldest of his father 's five children . White was a grandson of Hampshire County Clerk of Court John Baker White (1794 ? 1862) and a great @-@ grandson of the prominent Virginia judge Robert White (1759 ? 1831) . His uncle Robert White (1833 @-@ 1915) served as Attorney General of West Virginia and his brother John Baker White (1868 ? 1944) was a military officer and later served as a Charleston city councilman and president of the West Virginia Board of Control .

White received his early education in the public schools of Romney , and attended Romney 's Potomac Academy . At the age of 16 , he began his career in public service serving as the Deputy Clerk of Court in the office of his father , Christian Streit White , who was then serving as Clerk of Court for Hampshire County . In 1894 , White graduated from Potomac Academy at the age of 18 . Two years later , he began studying jurisprudence at the West Virginia University College of Law in Morgantown . He graduated from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1899 , earning a Bachelor of Laws degree . White cast his first vote for Democratic Party presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan in the United States presidential election of 1900 .

= = Law career = =

Following his graduation in 1899 from West Virginia University , White returned to Romney and established a law practice . In 1903 , he became associated with his father Christian Streit White in a law practice , following the conclusion of his father 's term as Hampshire County Clerk of Court . White continued to practice law with his father until 1912 , when he was elected to his first term as prosecuting attorney for Hampshire County .

= = Political career = =

Before the age of 21 , White represented Hampshire County as a delegate to a West Virginia Democratic Party state convention .

In 1912 , he was first elected to serve as the prosecuting attorney for Hampshire County and was re-elected to the position four times , serving four , four @-@ year terms from 1912 to 1928 . While serving in this position , White was a strong proponent of the Good Roads Movement and under his leadership , the first concrete bridge was constructed in Hampshire County by the County Court .

Between 1917 and 1922 , in addition to serving as the county 's prosecuting attorney , White served as the commissioner of school lands and as one of the chancery commissioners for Hampshire County , along with Joshua Soule Zimmerman and James Sloan Kuykendall .

= = = West Virginia Senate = = =

In 1930 , White was elected to serve in the West Virginia Senate representing the state 's Fifteenth Senatorial District . He served in the 40th and 41st Sessions of the West Virginia Legislature and completed his term in 1934 . During the 1932 legislative year , the West Virginia Senate was led by the Republican Party majority . The following legislative year in 1933 , White served as the floor leader for the West Virginia Senate 's Democratic Party members . The West Virginia Senate 's majority had shifted to the Democrats in 1933 , and in January 1933 , White was selected by A. G. Mathews , President of the West Virginia Senate , as chairman of the senate 's Judiciary Committee . In this position , White introduced twelve bills in 1933 to correct errors and omissions in existing statutes . Also in the 1933 legislative year , White served as a member on the Finance ; Roads and Navigation ; Counties , Municipal Corporations ; Rules ; Medicine and Sanitation ; Education ; Privileges and Elections ; and Redistricting committees . In the same year White was also appointed as a member on two special senate committees .

On January 19 , 1933 , White sponsored a resolution for the creation of a special committee on economy and efficiency to study state and municipal government spending . The committee was charged with making investigations , developing recommendations , and drafting bills to empower its recommendations . It was further permitted to summon witnesses , examine records , and to investigate all state and local government organizations to recommend further mechanisms to affect efficiency and economy . White was appointed to the committee , which consisted of the speaker of the House of Delegates , the president of the West Virginia Senate , and two members from each house .

In February 1933 , White was one of four senate Democrats appointed to serve on a special committee to investigate the road commission 's awarding of a contract for gasoline , oil , and grease to the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey over the Elk Refining Company of Charleston . The committee 's creation and investigation was in response to the Elk Refining Company 's protest of the commission 's decision , and the company 's advertisement in which it claimed that its contract bid was \$ 10 @,@ 387 @.@ 50 lower than that of Standard Oil . The committee not only investigated the commission 's decision , but also examined the Elk Refining Company 's advertisement . White questioned the advertisement 's merit and commented that the committee was " entitled to know what the motive behind this advertisement was . " " If there isn 't anything to investigate we shouldn 't be here investigating , " he concluded .

On February 28 , 1933 , White was a member of a subcommittee which drafted a bill calling for a special state referendum on the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution . Under the plan , which was submitted by White , West Virginia would register its official stand on the proposed Twenty @-@ first Amendment to end Prohibition in the United States at the federal level . The referendum was to choose a slate of 20 " wet " and 20 " dry " candidates for delegates to a state convention , which would present its final vote on the national repeal of Prohibition .

= = Personal life = =

= = = Marriage and issue = = =

White married Mabel Glasscock Fitch , the only child and daughter of E. H. Fitch and his wife Laura Glasscock Fitch , on January 7 , 1903 in Washington , D.C .. Fitch was a native of Vanceburg , Kentucky and she attended Marshall College while her family resided in Huntington . She completed her education in Washington , D.C. White and his wife Mabel had five children :

John Baker White (born February 11 , 1904)

Mabel Glasgow White Cornwell (born February 18 , 1906) , married James Leighton Cornwell on August 25 , 1926 in Hampshire County

Elizabeth Steele White (born April 23 , 1908)

Roberta Huston White McFarland (born June 18 , 1912) , married Dr. William Franklin McFarland on June 13 , 1936 in New Cumberland

Robert White , Jr .

White 's wife Mabel was an active member of the Presbyterian Church . While a passenger on a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad South Branch line train , Mabel took ill and died at the Wappocomo home of Garrett Williams Parsons on July 5 , 1915 . She was interred at Indian Mound Cemetery in Romney .

= = Later life and death = =

White never remarried following his wife 's death in 1915 . In addition to White 's church activities , he served as a master of the Masonic Lodge , and was affiliated with the Odd Fellows . Beginning in 1934 , White endured 18 months of illness , and on August 14 , 1935 , his physician Dr. R. W. Dailey reported to the Cumberland Evening Times that he was in critical condition and was unlikely to recover . White succumbed to his illness and died at his residence in Romney on August 15 , 1935 at the age of 59 as a result of arteriosclerosis . Myocarditis also contributed to his prolonged illness but was not the cause of his death . White was interred with Masonic rites on Saturday afternoon , August 17 , 1935 at Indian Mound Cemetery in Romney . A number of state officials attended his funeral .