

**A LIFE OF SILAS WRIGHT 1795-  
1847: UNITED STATES SENATOR  
FROM NEW YORK 1833-1844:  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF  
NEW YORK 1844-1846**

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A Life of Silas Wright 1795-1847: United States Senator from New York 1833-1844: Governor of the State of New York 1844-1846 by William Estabrook Chancellor

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**WILLIAM ESTABROOK CHANCELLOR**

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NEW YORK 1844-1846**





SILAS WRIGHT

A LIFE  
OF  
SILAS WRIGHT

1795-1847

United States Senator from New York 1833-1844  
Governor of the State of New York 1844-1846

BY

William Estabrook Chancellor

Author of "Our Presidents and Their Offices", etc. Member, Authors  
Club, London, Eng., Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C., etc.

*"Man of the millions, thou art lost too soon."*  
*John Greenleaf Whittier*

*"I mean to walk in the footsteps of Silas  
Wright."*

*William Salner*

1918  
WILLIAM C. O'DONNELL, Jr., Publisher  
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### Pithy Sayings of Silas Wright.

"I have never inquired into the degrees of blood of sheep or of men."

*House, April, 1828.*

"Wrong acts never serve a good cause."

*Proclamation, Aug., 1846.*

"Our principles possess a strength with our people that our men do not."

*Correspondence, Feb., 1847.*

"General averages are most deceptive guides."

*Senate Speech, April, 1844.*

"Stability is essential to healthful commerce. Fluctuations interrupt its channels and increase its hazards."

*Senate Speech, April, 1844.*

"The sponge of the bankrupt law has wiped away the record of hopeless debt."

*Senate Speech, April, 1844.*

"Is it possible that a country can be taxed into prosperity?"

*Senate Speech, April, 1844.*

"Equally with the legal, the medical, and the clerical professions, the agricultural requires a thorough and systematic education."

*Posthumous Address, Saratoga, Sept., 1847.*

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## *The Lost Statesman*

By JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

Lines written upon the occasion of the death of Governor Silas Wright, August 27th, 1847 (born 1795).

As they who, tossing midst the storm of night,  
While turning shoreward, where a beacon shone,  
Meet the walled blackness of the heaven alone,  
So, on the turbulent waves of party tossed,  
In gloom and tempest, men have seen thy light  
Quenched in the darkness. At thy hour of noon,  
While life was pleasant to thy undimmed sight,  
And day by day, within thy spirit grew  
A hoiler hope than young Ambition knew,  
As through thy rural quiet, not in vain,  
Pierced the sharp thrill of Freedom's cry of pain,  
Man of the millions, thou art lost too soon!  
Portents at which the bravest stand aghast,—  
The birth-throes of a Future, strange and vast,  
Alarm the land; yet thou, so wise and strong,  
Suddenly summoned to the burial bed,  
Lapped in its slumbers deep and ever long,  
Hear'st not the tumult surging overhead.  
Who now shall rally Freedom's scattering host?  
Who wear the mantle of the leader lost?  
Who stay the march of slavery? He whose voice  
Hath called thee from thy task-field shall not lack  
Yet bolder champions, to beat bravely back  
The wrong which, through His poor ones, reaches Him;  
Yet firmer hands shall Freedom's torchlights trim,  
And wave them high across the abysmal black,  
Till bound, dumb millions there shall see them and rejoice,

Written 10th month, 1847.

## Genealogy of Silas Wright in the Paternal Line.

**Lived in**

Mass.	Samuel Wright, emigrated to Boston 1630, died 1665
do.	Samuel, junior, born about 1635, was killed 1675
do.	Joseph, do. 1665, died 1697
do.	Samuel, do. 1690, do. after 1740
do.	Samuel, junior, do. 1725, died
Vermont	Silas, do. 1755, died 1840
New York	Silas, junior, born May 24, 1795, died Aug. 27, 1847

### Governors of New York State during the political career of Silas Wright.

De Witt Clinton	1817-1821 Anti-Fed.	James Monroe	1817-1825
Joseph C. Yates	1822-1823 Dem.	John Quincy Adams	1825-1829
De Witt Clinton	1824-1827 Anti-Fed.	Andrew Jackson	1829-1837
Nathaniel Pitcher	1828 Dem.	Martin Van Buren	1837-1841
Martin Van Buren	1829-1830 Dem.	William Henry Harrison	1841
Enos T. Throop	1831-1832 Dem.	John Tyler	1841-1845
William L. Marcy	1833-1838 Dem.	James Knox Polk	1845-1849
William H. Seward	1839-1842 Whig.		
William C. Bouck	1843-1844 Dem.		
Silas Wright, jr.	1845-1846 Dem.		
John Young	1847-1848 Dem.		

## Annals of the Life of Silas Wright.

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| May 25, 1795                      | Born at Amherst, Massachusetts.  |
| 1796                              | Removed to Weybridge, Vermont.   |
| 1809                              | Entered Middlebury, Vermont, Academy.  |
| 1811                              | Entered do. College.   |
| 1811—1815                         | Taught school in Vermont, winter terms.  |
| 1815                              | Was graduated from college.  |
| 1815—1819                         | Studied law, taught school, admitted to practice in January, 1819, at Sandy Hill, New York.  |
| October, 1819                     | Admitted to practice at Canton, Saint Lawrence County, New York State and resided there as home until his death.                             |
| February, 1821<br>until 1825      | Surrogate Saint Lawrence County.<br>Also justice of the peace and commissioner of deeds.<br>Also postmaster.<br>Also pathmaster (roadmaker). |
| 1821—1823                         | Town clerk.<br>Also inspector of public schools.   |
| 1822                              | Captain of militia. Major, same year.  |
| 1826                              | Colonel.   |
| 1827—1829                         | Brigadier-general of militia.  |
| 1823—1827                         | Member New York State Senate.  |
| 1827—1829                         | Member House of Representatives in Congress.   |
| 1829—1833                         | Comptroller State of New York.   |
| Jan., 4, 1833<br>until Dec., 1844 | Senator of the United States from New York.  |
| Sept., 11, 1833                   | Married Clarissa Moody of Canton.  |
| 1845—1846                         | Governor of New York State.  |
| 1846                              | Renominated but defeated.  |
| Aug., 27, 1847                    | Died of heart disease at Canton.   |