

**IN MEMORIAM OF
GENERAL
LEWIS CASS**

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In memoriam of General Lewis Cass by Vatiou

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VATIOUS

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In Memoriam.


General Lewis Cass.

Detroit:

THE FREE PRESS PRINTING HOUSE.
1866.

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1907
S. L. ...
Y. A. ...



Death of General Cass.

It is our melancholy duty to announce the death of one of the most distinguished of American statesmen and oldest residents of Detroit, LEWIS CASS. His long life of usefulness and honor terminated on Sunday morning, June 17th, about four o'clock, death smiting him at the ripe age of eighty-three. Few men succeed in weaving their names with the history of their age as intimately as he, and fewer still leave to their posterity the legacy of such an unblemished fame. In all his positions of responsibility, and in all the excitement of active political life, he preserved intact a rare personal integrity, and his remains will be placed in the grave, followed by the unalloyed esteem of a nation, and amid the

mourning of an entire people. It is now our sorrowful task to chronicle the chief events of the life that has ceased—events familiar to every student of American history.

LEWIS CASS was a native of New England, having been born at Exeter, New Hampshire, on the 9th of October, 1782. His patriotism was hereditary—his father, Jonathan Cass, having enlisted, at the age of nineteen, in the ranks of the Continental Army, and served through all the arduous campaigns of the Revolution, attaining the position of Captain. At this time, so great were the privations of the family that his first-born was cradled in a common sap trough. At the establishment of peace, Captain Cass received a commission in the army as major, and was assigned to duty under Wayne, in the territory northwest of the Ohio river. His family remained at Exeter for some time, LEWIS, his eldest son, attending

the academy at that point, and laying the foundations of a substantial education. In 1799 the family removed to Wilmington, Delaware, where Major Cass was temporarily stationed, and where Lewis, then hardly seventeen years of age, obtained occupation as a teacher. The native common sense of the father led him to foresee the coming greatness of the Northwest, and he accordingly decided that his family should aid the development and share the destinies of that vigorous section. Soon their faces were turned westward, and, traveling partly upon foot and occasionally by boat, they reached Marietta, the pioneer settlement of southern Ohio, in the month of October, 1800. Major Cass soon removed to a tract of land granted him by the Government for his military services, situated on the Muskingum river, near the present site of the town of Zanesville, and LEWIS entered upon

the study of law with Governor Meigs, at Marietta. In 1803 he was admitted to the bar, being but twenty years of age, and commenced his legal practice immediately at Zanesville. His abilities as a jurist and pleader speedily manifested themselves, built up for him a lucrative business, and gave him a widespread reputation in the thinly settled district north of the Ohio. Becoming established in his profession, in 1806 Mr. Cass united himself in marriage to a Virginia lady, named Elizabeth Spencer, and in the winter of that year commenced his public life by taking his seat as a member of the Ohio legislature. At this moment Aaron Burr, guilty of Hamilton's homicide, disappointed in his soaring ambition, stained with detestable vices—a genius without principle, and the Lucifer of American statesmen—was employing his brilliant powers in maturing that seditious scheme, whose extent

and design are still clouded in uncertainty, and which derived much of its importance from the sinister fame of its author. The young State of Ohio was one of the chief theatres of his incipient operations. This important subject elicited several communications from President Jefferson to Governor Tiffin, of Ohio, which were submitted by the latter to the legislature in a special message at the commencement of the session. The matter was referred to a committee, of which Mr. CASS was a member, and he drafted a bill embodying the most vigorous and decisive provisions for the prompt suppression of the would-be treason, which was reported to the legislature and passed by them. Under this act measures were taken that resulted in the summary breaking up of the Ohio branch of the conspiracy. The legislature furthermore adopted an eloquent and glowing address to