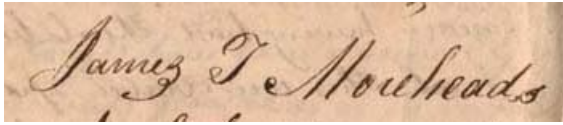


## **Morehead, James Turner** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Morehead, James Turner**

by [William S. Powell](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, 1991

**11 Jan. 1799–5 May 1875**



Signature of James Turner Morehead 1799-1875.

Image from Documenting the American South,  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

<sup>[3]</sup>James Turner Morehead, lawyer, legislator, and congressman, was born in [Rockingham County](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, the son of John and Obedience Motley Morehead. He attended the Reverend [David Caldwell](#) <sup>[5]</sup>'s school in [Guilford County](#) <sup>[6]</sup> and was graduated from [The University of North Carolina](#) <sup>[7]</sup> in 1819. Afterwards he studied law in Virginia, was licensed, and established a practice in [Greensboro](#) <sup>[8]</sup>. He was frequently a town commissioner and in 1832 drew up regulations for the government of Greensboro, many of the provisions of which pertained to public health and were advanced for the times.

Morehead served five terms in the state senate between 1835 and 1842 and in the U.S. House of Representatives as a [Whig](#) <sup>[9]</sup> during the years 1851–53, after which he declined to be a candidate for reelection. In addition to practicing law, he also had farming interests and operated the Troublesome ironworks. Although Morehead strongly opposed [secession](#) <sup>[10]</sup>, his four sons were Confederate officers; after the war he retired to private life and occupied himself with his business affairs.

He married Mary Teas Lindsay, and they were the parents of four sons, Robert Lindsay, John Henry, [James T., Jr.](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, and Joseph Motley, and two daughters, Annie Eliza (Mrs. Theodore Whitfield) and Mary Harper. His wife died when the children were still young, and he lavished great care and devotion on them as they grew. Morehead was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard in Greensboro.

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