

## Branch, William Augustus Blount <sup>[1]</sup>

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by Armistead Jones Maupin, 1979

**26 Feb. 1847–18 Nov. 1910**



Portrait of William Augustus Blount Branch.  
Courtesy of the  
Biographical Directory of  
the United States  
Congress.

<sup>[2]</sup>William Augustus Blount Branch, Confederate soldier, planter, and congressman, was born in Tallahassee, Fla., the son of General [Lawrence O'Bryan Branch](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, C.S.A., and Nancy Haywood Blount. His father, a North Carolinian, was practicing law in Florida at the time. Branch was educated at [Lovejoy's Academy](#) <sup>[4]</sup> in [Raleigh](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, Bingham Military Academy near Mebane, [The University of North Carolina](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, and [Virginia Military Institute at Lexington](#) <sup>[7]</sup>.

Branch joined the [Confederate Army](#) <sup>[8]</sup> as a courier on the staff of [General R. F. Hoke](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, and surrendered with General Joseph E. Johnston's army in 1865. He studied law but never practiced. In 1867 he took charge of his landed estate in [Beaufort County](#) <sup>[10]</sup> and engaged in agricultural pursuits for the rest of his life.

Branch was elected as a [Democrat](#) <sup>[11]</sup> to the Fifty-second and Fifty-third Congresses and served from 4 Mar. 1891 to 3 Mar. 1895. He was a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1896.

Branch married his cousin, Eliza Blount, daughter of William Augustus Blount, Jr., and Mary Washington. They had four children: Lawrence O'Bryan; William Augustus Blount; Eliza, who married Bayard Whitehurst; and Laura, who married John Stedman.

Branch died in Washington, N.C., and was buried there.

#### References:

*Biog. Dir. Am. Cong* (1961).

Daniel L. Grant, *Alumni History of the University of North Carolina* (1924).

Ursula F. Loy and Pauline M. Worthy, *Washington and the Pamlico* (1976).

#### Additional Resources:

"Branch, William Augustus Blount, (1847 - 1910)." *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*. Washington, D.C.: The Congress. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000765> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed April 16, 2013).

*The early history of Raleigh, the capital city of North Carolina: A centennial address delivered by invitation of the Committee on the centennial celebration of the foundation of the city, October 18, 1892, Volume 1, Issue 1*. Edwards and Broughton, printers, 1893. [http://books.google.com/books?id=DXEtAAAAYAAJ&dq=william+augustus+blount+branch&source=gb\\_s\\_navlinks\\_s&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=DXEtAAAAYAAJ&dq=william+augustus+blount+branch&source=gb_s_navlinks_s&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false) <sup>[12]</sup> (accessed April 16, 2013).

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"The House of Representatives of the Fifty Third Congress" , The Graphic Chicago, 1893, Collection of U.S. House of Representatives. "Branch, William Augustus Blount, (1847 - 1910)." *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*. Washington, D.C.: The Congress. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000765> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed April 16,

2013).

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**Authors:**

Maupin, Armistead J. [18]

**Origin - location:**

Beaufort County [19]

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