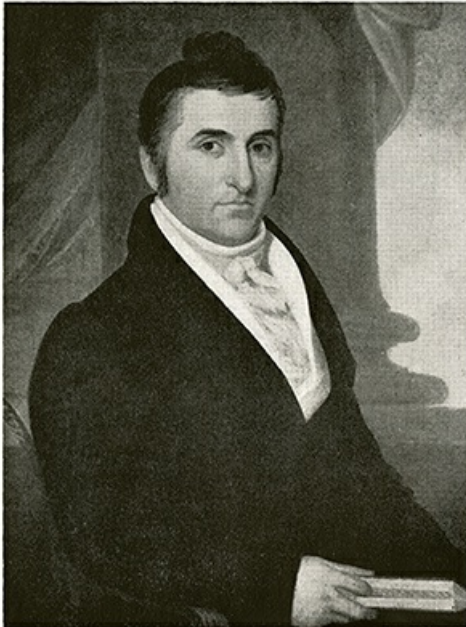


Daniel, Joseph John ^[1]

Daniel, Joseph John

by Joseph K. L. Reckford, 1986

13 Nov. 1783–10 Feb. 1848



UNC Press. p. 61. (Digital page 75).

^[2]

Joseph John Daniel, legislator and jurist, was born in [Halifax County](#) ^[3], the son of Anne Brinkley Daniel; the name of his father has not been found. Little is known of his childhood or early education. He attended [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[4] in the term 1801–2 and was a member of the Philanthropic Society, but was not graduated. After leaving Chapel Hill he read law in [Halifax](#) ^[5] under [William R. Davie](#) ^[6].

Daniel had a home in the town of Halifax and was elected to represent the borough in the House of Commons in 1807 and 1815; he also owned a rural home, Burnt Coat, near Heathsville, and represented the county in the House of Commons in 1812. He later represented [Edgecombe County](#) ^[7] in the House of Commons in 1836–37. In 1816 he was elected a judge of superior court for a three-year term, and in 1832 he was elected to the [North Carolina Supreme Court](#) ^[8] where he served until his death. For eleven of those years Daniel sat with [Thomas Ruffin](#) ^[9] and [William Gaston](#) ^[10]. Daniel also represented Halifax County in the [Constitutional Convention of 1835](#) ^[11]. Although not regarded as an outstanding public speaker, he was thought to be a fine conversationalist, perceptive and witty. He had simple tastes and was practical in everyday affairs.

Married to Maria Stith on 1 Jan. 1822, Daniel was survived by three children: William A., Mary Long Gordon, and Lavinia Bassett Battle.

An unsigned portrait of Daniel hangs in the [Philanthropic Society hall](#) ^[12] at The University of North Carolina; a copy is in the Supreme Court Building, Raleigh.

References:

W. C. Allen, *History of Halifax County* (1918).

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Margaret M. Hofmann, *Genealogical Abstracts of Wills 1758 through 1824, Halifax County, North Carolina* (1970).

John H. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina* (1851).

Additional Resources:

Joseph John Daniel Papers, 1848; 1941 (collection no. 02320-z). The Southern Historical Collection. Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/d/Daniel,Joseph_John.html [13] (accessed June 4, 2013).

Image credit:

Unidentified artist, circa 1835. "Joseph John Daniel." North Carolina Portrait Index, 1700-1860. Chapel Hill: UNC Press. p. 61. (Digital page 75). <https://www.worldcat.org/title/832326?oclcNum=832326> [2]. Accessed 10/14/2014.

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