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McNeill, Archibald [1]

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ca. 1796–1849

Archibald McNeill, congressman and militia colonel, was born inMoore County [2]. He represented Moore in the House of Commons in 1808 and 1809 and in the senate in 1811 and 1815. In 1821 he ran for Congress as a Republican [3] against the incumbent, John Culpepper [4], a Federalist [5]. McNeill was elected and served in the Seventeenth Congress (1821–23), where he made one speech against the tariff. Culpepper opposed McNeill for reelection in 1823. During that campaign, both candidates refused to declare a preference on the upcoming presidential election of 1824, but McNeill rejected the principle of a caucus nomination. McNeill also accused his opponent of insufficient support for the War of 1812 [6] while a member of the General Assembly, but Culpepper won the election. Running against Culpepper again in 1825, McNeill was elected and served in the Nineteenth Congress (1825–27).

The 1830 census for North Carolina records Archibald McNeill as a resident ofRobeson County [7]. He is recorded as living alone in his household (presumably, therefore, unmarried) and as the enslaver of a woman who was both deaf and physically disabled, and between the ages of forty and fifty.

McNeill moved to Texas in 1836. In 1849 he organized and led a group of about a hundred men on an expedition to the newly discovered gold fields of California. A sandstorm struck the party while it was crossing the Arizona desert. McNeill and most of the others perished, and his body was never found.

References:

Annals of Congress (1823).

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

Carolina Observer, 24 July, 7 Aug. 1823.

Additional Resources:

"McNeill, Archibald, (Birth date unknown - 1849)."*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress.*Washington, D.C.: The Congress. http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=M000586 [8] (accessed July 11, 2013).

Subjects:
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Public officials [10]
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