

Rowland, Alfred II ^[1]

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by Maud Thomas Smith, 1994; Additional research provided by Kelly Agan; Revised December 2021

9 Feb. 1844–2 Aug. 1898

Alfred II Rowland, lawyer and congressman, was born in Robeson County ^[2], the son of John A. and Florah A. Rowland. His mother was a native of South Carolina. In May 1861 young Rowland, then a student, enlisted in the Confederate army and was chosen lieutenant of Company D, Eighteenth Regiment, North Carolina Troops. This was an action company throughout the war, serving under Generals James H. Lane ^[3] and A. P. Hill. On 12 May 1864 Rowland was taken prisoner during the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House and imprisoned at Fort Delaware until his release in June 1865.

After returning home, he read law with Giles Leitch in Lumberton ^[4] and obtained his license to practice in the county court in January 1867 and in superior court in January 1868. In 1867 he was elected register of deeds, the first of many local offices that he held. He served in the General Assembly ^[5] (1876–77 and 1880–81), where he was a member of the judiciary committee and the committee on the jurisdiction of magistrates. In 1884 he represented the Sixth Congressional District as a presidential elector in support of Grover Cleveland and Thomas A. Hendricks.

Running for Congress on the Democratic ^[6] ticket in 1886, Rowland defeated his independent opponent by more than two-to-one. He served in the Fiftieth and Fifty-first congresses (4 Mar. 1887–3 Mar. 1891). Afterwards he retired to Lumberton to resume his law practice; he also served as master of St. Alban's Masonic Lodge. After his death in Lumberton and funeral at the Presbyterian church, of which he had been a member, he was buried in Meadowbrook Cemetery. The town of Rowland (incorporated in the year of his death) in the southwestern part of Robeson County was named in his honor.

Rowland married a Miss Blount, and they were the parents of a son, John A., and three daughters, May, Penelope, and Winifred.

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