WARREN WINSLOW

Governor: 1854-1855

by Jerry L. Cross
https://www.ncdcr.gov/about-us/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program

See also: Warren Winslow, Dictionary of North Carolina Biography

Winslow was elected to represent District 3, which included Cumberland County, in the United States Congress in 1855. Though he took little active role in the proceedings, he quietly defended southern rights on the constitutional issues. He left the House of Representatives with the close of the 1861 session.

Winslow's next service was as an advisor and agent of Governor John Ellis. On April 22, 1861, after the outbreak of hostilities but before North Carolina seceded from the Union, Winslow negotiated the surrender of the arsenal at Fayetteville to the state. He continued in charge of the facility during the spring of that year. In May the legislature created the Military and Naval Board to advise and aid an ailing Governor Ellis in the conduct of his office. Warren Winslow was named chairman of that board. Unfortunately, he delivered to Ellis the unwise and erroneous advice that the coast of North Carolina was adequately protected by the natural shoals and sand bars, and that the forts (Hatteras and Clark) would not need large garrisons. When the forts fell and the northeastern coast succumbed to Union blockade, many citizens blamed Winslow, damaging his influence and prestige.

He had been a delegate to the Convention of 1861 that voted for secession and which acted as the state’s legal body for the first year of the war. A few months after the debacle at Hatteras, he resigned his seat and retired to Fayetteville. Winslow died less than a year later on August 16, 1862 and was buried in Cross Creek Cemetery.

References and additional resources:


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