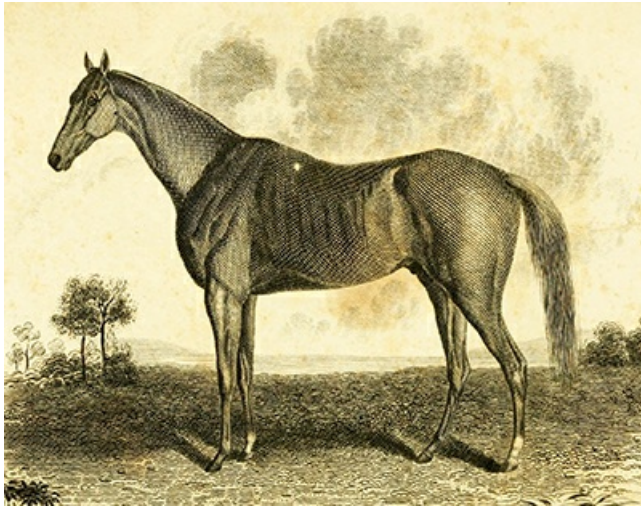


## **Crowell, John** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Crowell, John**

by J. Isaac Copeland, 1979

**18 Sept. 1780–25 June 1846**



An engraving published in 1837 of the racehorse John Bascombe, owned by John Crowell. Based on a painting by Edward Troye. Image from the Internet Archive.

<sup>[2]</sup>John Crowell, Indian agent, territorial delegate, and congressman, was born in [Halifax County](#) <sup>[3]</sup>. His father, Edward, had left New Jersey to settle in North Carolina, where he married a Miss Rabun, an aunt of [William Rabun](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, governor of Georgia from 1817 to 1819. The Crowells were of English descent, and various accounts agree that the name was originally Cromwell. Two brothers, relatives of [Oliver Cromwell](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, fled to the American colonies and, fearing further persecution, changed their name.

In 1815, John Crowell was appointed agent to the Muscogee Indians; he moved to Alabama and lived in St. Stephens for a brief time. In 1818 he was elected by the territorial legislature as delegate to the Fifteenth U.S. Congress. In the following year he was elected to the Sixteenth Congress as Alabama's first representative. Little is known of his record during his one term in the House, except for a comment made by John Dandridge Bibb: "John Crowel [sic] was not talented, but the Territory at that time had no one else to spare that would have done any better."

Following his retirement from Congress in 1821, Crowell was appointed agent to the Creek Indians of western Georgia and eastern Alabama; he held this office until 1836. He is reputed to have been a lover of [horse-racing](#) <sup>[6]</sup> and to have enjoyed entering his own fine horses in the contests. Crowell never married. He died at his home in Fort Mitchell in Russell County and was buried there in a private cemetery.

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