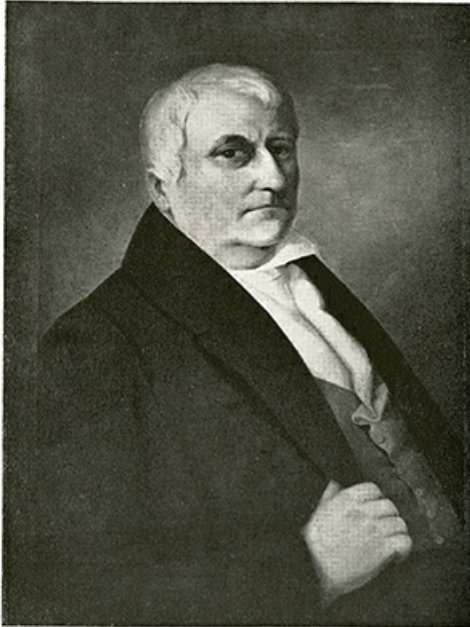


Shober, Emanuel ^[1]

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by James S. Brawley, 1994; Revised by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, January 2023

13 Feb. 1789–14 June 1846



UNC Press. p. 210. (Digital page 224). ^[2]Emanuel Shoher, Moravian church official and state senator, was born in Salem, the third child of Gottlieb ^[3] and Magdalena Transou Shoher. He attended the Salem church school and studied law under Archibald D. Murphey ^[4] of Hillsborough. After receiving his license to practice, he made his home in Germantown for a short time before moving to Salem, where in 1815 he was one of three Moravians ^[5] to be made agents for a bank.

Elected to the state senate in 1819, Shoher served on a committee for education and helped to secure passage of "An Act making the affirmation of Moravians and Menonists evidence in criminal cases as well as in civil controversies in this state." He represented Stokes County ^[6] as a senator in the general assemblies of 1819–20, 1822, 1824–25, 1827–28, and 1828–29. In 1835 he was elected as an independent to the constitutional convention ^[7] held in Raleigh. There Shoher took a leading part in promoting more liberal constitutional amendment procedures. In opposing the Meares report, he warned that to "adopt a plan by which it shall be necessary that two-thirds or three-fifths of the legislature shall pass upon the subject [of amending the constitution] no amendments to the Constitution would ever be made." In this regard he voted with the rest of the western delegates.

As an advocate for the Moravian church, Shoher was ever ready to promote its interest and to serve in its cause. He was a member of the congregational council from 1820 until his death and played a key role in the formation of the law revising the fire code and in the establishment of a fire company ^[8] in Salem in 1842. He served as captain of the Salem Light Infantry, and during the panic of a revolt among enslaved people against their enslavers near Wilmington in September 1831, he was ordered to be prepared to move his unit to Montgomery County ^[9] "where a Negro insurrection is in progress." The report of an uprising in the gold mine regions was greatly exaggerated, and the Salem company did not report to Montgomery County. In the same year, however, Shoher went to West Point, N.Y., in order to attend the examination of the cadets and possibly to learn more about military affairs in case a real insurrection should occur.

On 8 Jan. 1833 Shoher became postmaster at Salem, taking over the job from his father, who with another son, had been in charge since the position was established in 1792. Shoher was retained as postmaster until his death.

On 30 Mar. 1826 he married Anna Hanes, the daughter of Philip Hanes of Hope Congregation Davidson County ^[10]. They were the parents of eight children: Charles Eugene, Francis Edwin ^[11], Louisa Maria, Adelaide Matilda, Beatus who died in infancy, Mary Ann who died at age two, Susan Regina who died in infancy, and Nathanael Augustin who died in infancy. Emanuel and his wife Anna were buried in the Salem graveyard.

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