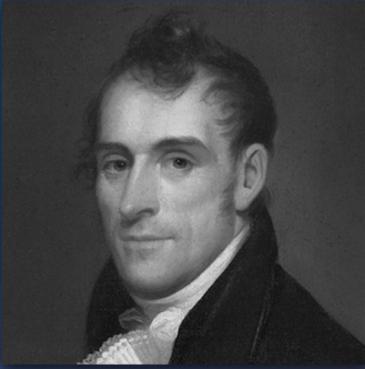




225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Matthias Burnett Tallmadge

Born:

March 1, 1774
Stamford, NY

Received Commission:

Appointed: Recess
appointee June 12, 1805;
re-nominated December
20, 1805.

Commissioned: January
17, 1806 to District of
New York.

Reassigned to new
Northern District Court,
April 9, 1814.

Died:

October 1, 1819
Poughkeepsie, NY

Matthias Burnett Tallmadge was born to a prominent family of the colonial and post-colonial era. His parents were Colonel James Tallmadge and Ann Sutherland. His brother, brother-in-law, and cousin served in the House and Senate. He married Elizabeth Clinton, daughter of the first New York Governor George Clinton, and cousin to Governor DeWitt Clinton.

Tallmadge graduated from Yale College in 1795 and then read law. After he was admitted to the bar, Tallmadge had a law practice in Herkimer, N.Y., and then served on the New York State Assembly and Senate 1803-1805. The period after Tallmadge's appointment to the District Court saw a rise in the number of admiralty cases due to unrest on the seas and, later, the importation of slaves which was outlawed by the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves in 1808. This increasing caseload prompted the division of the District into the Northern and Southern Districts and the appointment of a second judge. Judge Tallmadge was instrumental in bringing about this separation.

The increasing caseload had unfortunately taken a toll on Tallmadge's health and he often was unable to preside. He resigned on July 1, 1819.

Sources:

Biographical Directory of Federal Judges, available at <http://www.fjc.gov/>

New-York Historical Society Museum & Library, Guide to the Matthias B. Tallmadge Papers. (2011) Available at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/findingaids/html/nyhs/tallmadge/>.

Annals of the Congress of the United States. 15th Cong., 2nd Sess., February 1819, pp. 1217 – 1222.