

Josiah Nichol
March 17, 1772 – May 31, 1833
Eleanor Ryburn Nichol
September 21, 1781 – November 18, 1864

Section 28.51 # 280171

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Josiah Nichol was born in County Donegal, Ireland, on March 17, 1772. With his father and brother John, they left Ireland and came to America between 1782-1790. He married Eleanor Ryburn in Washington County, Virginia on April 19, 1797. She was the daughter of Matthew and Jane Beattie Ryburn. Soon after the birth of their second child William, the family moved to Knox County. Here the Nichols formed a friendship with Andrew Jackson. By the fall of 1805 the Nichols had moved to Nashville. Nichol bought a large lot and built a fine house on the corner of Cherry (now 4th Avenue North) and Union Alley (now Union Street). The Nichol residence was the center of social life in Nashville and home to three generations.

On November 14, 1814, Mrs. Nichol joined six other ladies, one man and two preachers to organize the Presbyterian Church in Nashville. The Nichols had twelve children. Nine of those children lived to adulthood.

In 1827, Nicholas Biddle, President of the Bank of the United States, sent representatives to Nashville to organize a branch bank. William B. Lewis and George Washington Campbell were appointed directors and Josiah Nichol was named president of the Nashville Branch of the United States Bank.

Josiah Nichol died of Cholera on May 31, 1833, during the first epidemic to devastate Nashville. Announcement of his death by the Bank office requested members of the Board of Directors as a mark of respect “to wear crepe on the left arm for 30 days and attend his funeral.” His funeral was held at his residence with the Rev. George Weller, rector of Christ Church (Episcopal) officiating. His will, probated in Davidson County on August 5, 1833, listed his estate at \$49,345.00. Bequests were made to his wife, children and other family members.

Eleanor Nichol outlived her husband by 31 years. Nichol Family Bible recorded her death on Friday, November 18, 1864. Her obituary noted that she had lived in the same house since 1809. Her funeral, conducted by R.B.C. Howell, was held at home. At the time Nashville was occupied by the Federal Army during the Civil War and most of the churches had been taken over for use as military hospitals, including the Presbyterian Church.

Sources

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Fletch Coke 2017