



WILLIAM PITT FESSENDEN  
*of Maine*

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William Pitt Fessenden, a Republican of Maine, succeeded Lot Morrill as chairman, although he had not previously served on the committee. He occupied that position only from March 16, 1869, until he died on September 9, 1869.

Born in Boscawen, NH, in 1806, Fessenden graduated from Bowdoin College in 1827, then studied law and practiced in various cities in Maine. After serving in the State house of representatives, he was elected to Congress as a Whig in 1841. Declining to become a candidate for reelection, he returned to the State house of representatives for several years before being elected as a Whig to the U.S. Senate, where he served from 1854 to 1864. He then resigned to become Secretary of the Treasury in the Cabinet of President Lincoln. In 1865 he was again elected to the Senate, this time as a Republican, and remained there until his death. He had the unusual distinction of serving in the Senate at the same time that his two brothers, also from Maine, were Members of the House of Representatives.

For further reading: Jellison, Charles. *Fessenden of Maine: Civil War Senator*. Syracuse, NY, 1962.

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