

Thus to two sons of the Old Dominion fall the honors of being first to introduce the resolution and first to move the creation of the Committee on the Judiciary in the House of Representatives.

The committee was soon put to work, for on Friday, December 10 :

On motion of Mr. Hempstead \* \* \* it was

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision, by law, for the appointment of an additional judge of the supreme court, in the Territory of Missouri, exclusively for the district of Arkansas, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

More work was to follow, for on December 15, 20, 21 the committee was instructed to inquire into certain matters. On Friday, December 24, we read as follows :

Mr. Ingersoll, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill for the appointment of an additional judge in the Missouri Territory, and for other purposes, which was twice read and committed.

This bill was read the third time and passed. On Thursday, December 30 :

On motion of Mr. Ingersoll :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of altering the judicial system of the United States.

*Resolved also*, That the same committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the more effectual punishment of crimes against the United States, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise."

We now see the committee at its appointed task, a work which has continued without interruption throughout the succeeding Congresses for the past 134 years.

Before leaving the Thirteenth Congress it is well to remember the following: On August 2, 1813, Egbert Benson, Member from New York, resigned. His departure removed the last tie binding the present Congress to the past. Egbert Benson had been a delegate to the Annapolis convention in 1786; had served in the Congress of the Confederation 1784-85, 1786-88; member of the State constitutional convention in New York in 1788, which ratified the Federal Constitution, and had served in the First and Second Congresses under the Constitution from March 4, 1789, to March 3, 1793.

It is indeed interesting to turn from the past and look ahead through the succeeding century and a third's history of this truly great committee.

#### CHAIRMEN

During the 134 years of its existence, 40 different men have served as chairman of the committee. The list is as follows in the order of their first term of service as chairmen :

- Thirteenth Congress, second session, Charles J. Ingersoll, Pennsylvania.
- Thirteenth Congress, third session, Charles J. Ingersoll, Pennsylvania.
- Fourteenth Congress, first session, Hugh Nelson, Virginia.
- Fourteenth Congress, second session, Hugh Nelson, Virginia.
- Fifteenth Congress, first session, Hugh Nelson, Virginia.
- Fifteenth Congress, second session, Hugh Nelson, Virginia.
- Sixteenth Congress, first session, John Sergeant, Pennsylvania.
- Sixteenth Congress, second session, John Sergeant, Pennsylvania.
- Seventeenth Congress, first session, John Sergeant, Pennsylvania.
- Seventeenth Congress, second session, Hugh Nelson, Virginia.
- Eighteenth Congress, first session, Daniel Webster, Massachusetts.
- Eighteenth Congress, second session, Daniel Webster, Massachusetts.
- Nineteenth Congress, first session, Daniel Webster, Massachusetts.

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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Nineteenth Congress, second session, Daniel Webster, Massachusetts.  
Twentieth Congress, first session, Philip P. Barbour, Virginia.  
Twentieth Congress, second session, Philip P. Barbour, Virginia.  
Twenty-first Congress, first session, James Buchanan, Pennsylvania.  
Twenty-first Congress, second session, James Buchanan, Pennsylvania.  
Twenty-second Congress, first session, Warren Davis, South Carolina.  
Twenty-second Congress, second session, John Bell, Tennessee.  
Twenty-third Congress, first session, John Bell, Tennessee.  
Twenty-third Congress, second session, Thomas Foster, Georgia.  
Twenty-fourth Congress, first session, Samuel Beardsley, New York.  
Twenty-fourth Congress, second session, Francis Thomas, Maryland.  
Twenty-fifth Congress, first session, Francis Thomas, Maryland.  
Twenty-fifth Congress, second session, Francis Thomas, Maryland.  
Twenty-fifth Congress, third session, Francis Thomas, Maryland.  
Twenty-sixth Congress, first session, John Sergeant, Pennsylvania.  
Twenty-sixth Congress, second session, John Sergeant, Pennsylvania.  
Twenty-seventh Congress, first session, Daniel Barnard, New York.  
Twenty-seventh Congress, second session, Daniel Barnard, New York.  
Twenty-seventh Congress, third session, Daniel Barnard, New York.  
Twenty-eighth Congress, first session, William Wilkins, Pennsylvania.  
Twenty-eighth Congress, second session, Romulus Saunders, North Carolina.  
Twenty-ninth Congress, first session, George Rathbun, New York.  
Twenty-ninth Congress, second session, George Rathbun, New York.  
Thirtieth Congress, first session, Joseph Ingersoll, Pennsylvania.  
Thirtieth Congress, second session, Joseph Ingersoll, Pennsylvania.  
Thirty-first Congress, James Thomson, Pennsylvania.  
Thirty-second Congress, James K. McLanahan, Pennsylvania.  
Thirty-third Congress, Frederick P. Stanton, Tennessee.  
Thirty-fourth Congress, George A. Simmons, New York.  
Thirty-fifth Congress, George S. Houston, Alabama.  
Thirty-sixth Congress, John Hickman, Pennsylvania.  
Thirty-seventh Congress, John Hickman, Pennsylvania.  
Thirty-eighth Congress, James F. Wilson, Iowa.  
Thirty-ninth Congress, James F. Wilson, Iowa.  
Fortieth Congress, James F. Wilson, Iowa.  
Forty-first Congress, John A. Bingham, Ohio.  
Forty-second Congress, John A. Bingham, Ohio.  
Forty-third Congress, Benjamin F. Butler, Massachusetts.  
Forty-fourth Congress, J. Proctor Knott, Kentucky.  
Forty-fifth Congress, J. Proctor Knott, Kentucky.  
Forty-sixth Congress, J. Proctor Knott, Kentucky.  
Forty-seventh Congress, Thomas B. Reed, Maine.  
Forty-eighth Congress, John Randolph Tucker, Virginia.  
Forty-ninth Congress, John Randolph Tucker, Virginia.  
Fiftieth Congress, David B. Culberson, Texas.  
Fifty-first Congress, Ezra B. Taylor, Ohio.  
Fifty-second Congress, David B. Culberson, Texas.  
Fifty-third Congress, David B. Culberson, Texas.  
Fifty-fourth Congress, David B. Henderson, Iowa.  
Fifty-fifth Congress, David B. Henderson, Iowa.  
Fifty-sixth Congress, George W. Ray, New York.  
Fifty-seventh Congress, George W. Ray, New York.  
Fifty-eighth Congress, John J. Jenkins, Wisconsin.  
Fifty-ninth Congress, John J. Jenkins, Wisconsin.  
Sixtieth Congress, John J. Jenkins, Wisconsin.  
Sixty-first Congress, Richard Wayne Parker, New Jersey.  
Sixty-second Congress, Henry D. Clayton, Alabama.  
Sixty-third Congress, Henry D. Clayton, Alabama.  
Sixty-fourth Congress, Edwin Y. Webb, North Carolina.  
Sixty-fifth Congress, Edwin Y. Webb, North Carolina.  
Sixty-sixth Congress, Andrew J. Volstead, Minnesota.  
Sixty-seventh Congress, Andrew J. Volstead, Minnesota.  
Sixty-eighth Congress, George S. Graham, Pennsylvania.  
Sixty-ninth Congress, George S. Graham, Pennsylvania.  
Seventieth Congress, George S. Graham, Pennsylvania.  
Seventy-first Congress, George S. Graham, Pennsylvania.  
Seventy-second Congress, Hatton W. Summers, Texas.

Seventy-third Congress, Hatton W. Sumners, Texas.  
Seventy-fourth Congress, Hatton W. Sumners, Texas.  
Seventy-fifth Congress, Hatton W. Sumners, Texas.  
Seventy-sixth Congress, Hatton W. Sumners, Texas.  
Seventy-seventh Congress, Hatton W. Sumners, Texas.  
Seventy-eighth Congress, Hatton W. Sumners, Texas.  
Seventy-ninth Congress, Hatton W. Sumners, Texas.  
Eightieth Congress, Earl C. Michener, Michigan.

In recapitulation it is seen that of the men who held the chairmanship, nine came from Pennsylvania, five came from New York, three came from Virginia, two each from Massachusetts, Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama, Iowa, Ohio, Texas, and one each from South Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, Kentucky, Maine, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Michigan. It fell to the lot of Hon. Hatton W. Sumners, of Texas, to have served the longest continuous period, having been chairman since the beginning of the Seventy-second Congress until the close of the Seventy-ninth Congress. He was appointed a member of the committee in the Sixty-fifth Congress.

The biographies of the chairmen of the committee, beginning with that of the first chairman, Charles J. Ingersoll, in the second session of the Thirteenth Congress, and including that of the present chairman, Earl C. Michener, of the Eightieth Congress, are given in the order of their succession from the year 1813 up to and including the year 1947.

CHARLES JARED INGERSOLL

Chairman, Thirteenth Congress

Son of Jared Ingersoll and brother of Joseph Reed Ingersoll; a Representative from Pennsylvania; was the first chairman of the committee; born in Philadelphia, Pa., October 3, 1782. His father, Jared Ingersoll, had graduated from Yale College in 1766, and finished his legal education at the Middle Temple, London, England, in 1774, and then went to Paris. Jared Ingersoll was a member of the Continental Congress and a delegate to the Convention that framed the Federal Constitution and was one of the signers thereof. Charles Jared received an academic training; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1802, and commenced practice in Philadelphia, Pa.; elected as a Democrat to the Thirteenth Congress (March 4, 1813-March 3, 1815); was not a candidate for renomination in 1814, having been appointed United States district attorney for Pennsylvania; United States district attorney for Pennsylvania, 1815-29; member of the State improvement convention in 1825; member of the State house of representatives in 1830; appointed secretary of the legation to Prussia March 8, 1837; unsuccessful candidate in 1837 for election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Francis J. Harper in the Twenty-fifth Congress, unsuccessful candidate for election in 1838 to the Twenty-sixth Congress; elected to the Twenty-seventh and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1841-March 3, 1849); was not a candidate for renomination in 1848; appointed Minister to France in 1847, but was not confirmed by the Senate; appointed United States judge for the district of Connecticut April 8, 1853; died in Philadelphia, Pa., May 14, 1862; interment in the Woodland Cemetery.