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SHELBY M. CULLOM; GREAT STATESMAN, DIES AT CAPITAL

Public Life More Than Fifty
Years, Senator for
Thirty.

AS A FRIEND OF LINCOLN

few Survivors of Revolution
—Was Real Connecting Link
Between History of Past
and Present.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Former senator Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois died here today after an illness of more than a week, during which he hovered between life and death. His last words were a wish that he might have lived to see the completion of the national memorial to Abraham Lincoln, who was his personal friend.

Shelby Moore Cullom's death ended 50 years of continuous public service that had made him a figure in American national life and brought him into official relations with every president from Abraham Lincoln to Andrew Wilson. President Taft said of him:

"Why, here's my old friend Uncle Shelby; he comes nearer connecting the present with the days of Washington than any one else whom I know."

As a ploughboy driving his father's team over the fresh prairie of Illinois he had known and talked with survivors of the revolution and on the foundations of a life begun in earlier hardships of a family of which his children had built a career that led him to the Illinois legislature as member; speaker of the assembly, several terms in the governor's chair, and in the national house of representatives, and thirty consecutive years in the United States senate.

His nearest living contemporary probably is "Uncle Joe" Cannon, 80 years senior he was some seven years younger than and some three years in nascent service.

Andrew Jackson was president of the United States when Mr. Cullom was born in 1829 down in the Elk Valley of Kentucky, near the old farm where the Culloms' of Maryland and the Coffeys of North Carolina were drifting westward with the

When he became city attorney of Springfield he launched upon a political career, which for a record of unbroken service, is unchallenged as exceeding that of any other American. Among his first political experiences was the novelty of being elected and defeated at the same election. He was elected to the legislature and defeated as an elector on the Fillmore ticket. Then came the historic Lincoln and Douglas debates and Cullom's intimate association with Lincoln, whom he followed into the ranks of the republican party. He presided over the session of the Illinois house at which, after Fort Sumter had been fired upon, Stephen A. Douglas appeared and made his dramatic plea for the preservation of the union. During the first of President Lincoln's second term Mr. Cullom came to the national house of representatives and began a work which was practically interrupted only when he served two terms as governor of Illinois.

After six years in the house during which he had seen the impeachment of Andrew Johnson and taken part in the making of a most critical period of American history, he returned to Illinois vowing never again to take office, only to become speaker of the legislature and later governor. At the Philadelphia convention he placed Grant in nomination for his second term in which is said to be the shortest nominating speech ever delivered. It contained seventy-five words.

Cullom's career as a United States senator began in 1883 when he resigned as governor and was elected to succeed David Davis. His service in the senate chamber was an unbroken one for thirty years—five consecutive terms—a record excelled only by two other men, Senator Allison of Iowa, and Senator Morrill of Vermont.

He entered the senate in 1883, a spry, active man of 54, he left it in 1913 a fading, tottering man of 84 but with a brain still bright and active. He used to tell a story of how one day seeing Senator Vest, very old, feeble looking and dejected, he said to Senator Morrill, who then was some 86:

"Go over and cheer Vest up a bit," whereat Morrill walked over and slapping Vest on the shoulder said: "Cheer up, old man; why, you're nothing but a boy." His emmoirs of fifty years of public service finished only a few months before his final illness overtook him, concluded after this manner:

"I have no great fear of death, except the natural dread of the physical pain which usually accompanies it. I certainly wish beyond any words I have power to express that I could have greater assurance that there will be a reuniting with those we love and those who have loved us in some future world; but from my reading of the Scripture and even admitting that there is a hereafter, I cannot find any satisfactory evidence to warrant such a belief. Could I believe that I could meet the loved ones who have gone before, I do not know but that I should look forward with pleasure to the 'passing across.' Not having this belief, I am quite content to 'stay where I am as long as I can; and finally, when old Charon appears to row me over the River Styx I shall be ready to go."