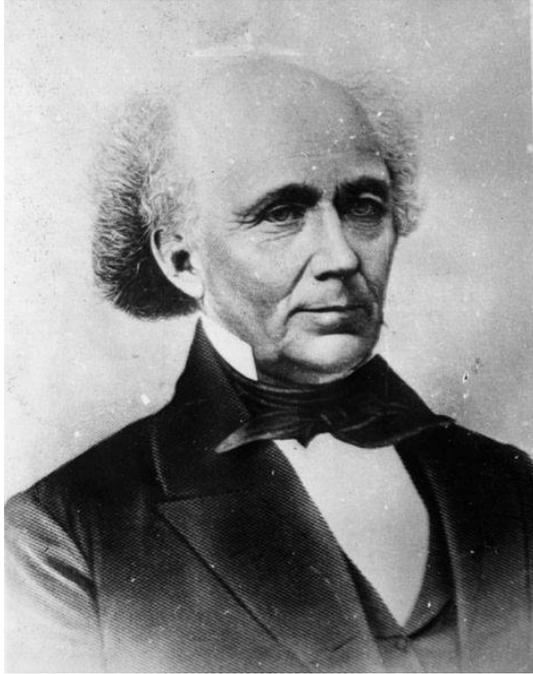


Bernhisel, John Milton, (23 Jul 1799 – 28 Sep 1881), Biographical Directory of the United States Congress



A Delegate from the Territory of Utah; born at Sandy Hill, Tyrone Township, near Harrisburg, Perry County (then Cumberland County), Pa., July 23, 1799; attended the common schools; was graduated from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia; commenced the practice of medicine in New York City; moved to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Ill., in 1843, and thence to the Territory of Utah; settled in Salt Lake City in 1848 and continued the practice of medicine; elected to the Thirty-second and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1851-March 3, 1859); was not a candidate for renomination in 1858; resumed the practice of medicine; elected to the Thirty-seventh Congress (March 4, 1861-March 3, 1863); was not a candidate for renomination in 1862; resumed the practice of his profession; served as regent of the University of Utah; died in Salt Lake City September 28, 1881; interment in Salt Lake

City Cemetery.

From Wikipedia: **John Milton Bernhisel** (June 23, 1799 – September 28, 1881), was an American physician, politician and early member of the Latter-day Saint movement. He was a close friend and companion to both **Joseph Smith, Jr.** and **Brigham Young**. **Bernhisel** was the original delegate of the Utah Territory in the United States House of Representatives (1851–1859, 1861–1863) and acted as a member of the Council of Fifty of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church).

Bernhisel was born at Sandy Hill, Tyrone Township, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He graduated in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, and began practicing medicine in New York City. After becoming affiliated with the Latter-day Saint movement, he moved to Nauvoo, Illinois in 1843. **Bernhisel** served as the personal physician to **Joseph Smith, Jr.** and lived in his home. He delivered some of Emma Smith's children.

In June 1844, **Bernhisel** accompanied **Joseph Smith** to the Carthage Jail and spent some time with **Smith** and his brother **Hyrum** in the jail, but **Bernhisel** was not present at the time of **Joseph Smith's** death at the hands of a mob.

After **Smith's** death, **Bernhisel** followed **Brigham Young** and moved west with the majority of the Latter-day Saints. He settled in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory in 1848 and continued the practice of medicine.

Bernhisel was selected by **Young** to represent the interests of the Latter-day Saints before Congress when the Mormon settlers began to consider an application for statehood as the State of Deseret. He was selected to the Thirty-second and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1851 – March 3, 1859). After returning briefly to his medical practice, he also ran and served in the Thirty-seventh Congress (March 4, 1861 – March 3, 1863). **Bernhisel** also served as regent of the University of Utah.

Bernhisel was a bachelor until he was 46 years old (March 1845), when he married **Julia Ann Haight**, the widow of **William Van Orden** and mother of five children. The couple had one child, also named **John Milton Bernhisel** (born in 1846). Like some early LDS Church members, **Bernhisel** went on to practice plural marriage. He was married to seven women, but by 1850 all of them but **Elizabeth Barker** had left for various reasons. He died in Salt Lake City on September 28, 1881 and is interned at the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

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