

James Meacham

(16 Aug 1810 – 23 Aug 1856)

The National Intelligencer, Tuesday, August 26, 1856

Congress

The Senate had but a short session yesterday, yet an interesting one. We were gratified to see the move made by the enlightened Senator from California towards abrogating certain obnoxious laws in Kansas. Some conversation then ensued in regard to the resolution submitted by Mr. Clayton on Saturday last, when further proceeding on it was cut off by a message from the House of Representatives announcing the decease of the Hon. James Meacham, an esteemed member of the House from the State of Vermont. The message having been read, Mr. Foot, of Vermont, rose and pronounced an eloquent and impressive eulogy on the life and character of the lamented Representative, a full report of which is given under the appropriate head. Mr. Douglas (a native of Vermont) also paid a feeling tribute to the virtues of the deceased member; and then, in conformity to the resolutions unanimously adopted, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives the formal announcement of the death of the Hon. James Meacham, of Vermont, superseded all other proceedings for the day. Mr. Morrill, one of his colleagues, gave a graphic narrative of the most interesting events in the career of his gifted and much-respected friend, accompanied by a touching and eloquent tribute to his personal merits and public usefulness. Messrs. Howard, of Michigan, Etheridge, of Tennessee, Dickson, of New York, and Giddings, of Ohio, followed in well-conceived and feeling remarks; and the House adjourned, after adopting the customary resolutions of respect and condolence.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Vermont; born in Rutland County, Vt., August 16, 1810; was graduated from Middlebury (Vt.) College in 1832; taught in the seminary at Carlisle, Vt., and in the local academy at St. Albans, Vt.; attended Andover (Vt.) Theological Seminary, where he studied for the ministry and was ordained as a Congregational Minister in 1838; assuming his duties as pastor in New Haven, Vt., and served from 1839 to 1846; tutor and professor at Middlebury College 1846-50; elected as a Whig to the 31st Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of George P. Marsh; reelected to the 32nd through 34th Congresses and served from December 3, 1849 until his death in Rutland, Vt., August 23, 1856; interment in West Cemetery, Middlebury, Vermont.