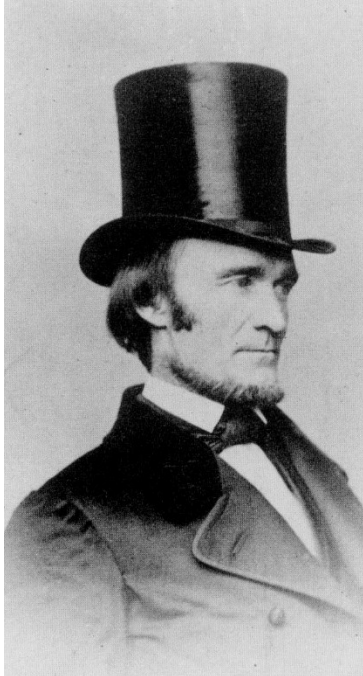


Fielding Bradford Meek

(10 Dec 1817 – 21 Dec 1876)

Meek. On Wednesday morning, December 21, 1876, Fielding B. Meek aged 59 years. His friends and members of the Philosophical Society of Washington are invited to attend his funeral from the Geological Hall of the Smithsonian Institution on Friday, 22d instant at 2 o'clock p.m.



Appleton's Encyclopedia, p. 286

Meek, Fielding Bradford, paleontologist, b. in Madison, Ind., 10 Dec, 1817; d. in Washington, D.C., 21 Dec., 1876. He received a public school education, and when a student became interested in the fossil remains that were found in the vicinity of his home. As he grew older he chose a mercantile career, but, failing in this, he directed his attention to geology, and became in 1848 an assistant in the U.S. geological survey of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, then under the direction of David D. Owen. During 1852-58 he assisted James Hall in the paleontological work of the state of New York except in the summers, when he was engaged in field-work. In 1853 he was associated with Ferdinand V. Hayden in making a collection of invertebrate and other fossils in the bad-lands of Dakota. He settled in Washington, D.C., in 1858, and thereafter devoted his time principally to investigating and reporting on the organic remains that had been accumulated by the government exploring expeditions. The invertebrate paleontology of the Rocky mountain region, as developed in the survey under Prof. Hayden, was intrusted to Mr. Meek. He also devoted much time to the paleontology of Illinois, Ohio, California, and of many of the territories. He was a

member of many scientific societies, and in 1870 was elected to the National academy of sciences. His papers, which were numerous, appeared in the transactions of societies to which he belonged, in state and national geological reports, and in scientific journals. Mr. Meek published, through the Smithsonian institution, with Ferdinand V. Hayden, "Paleontology of the Upper Missouri" (1855); and alone "Check-List of the Invertebrate Fossils of North America," cretaceous, jurassic, and miocene (1864); also a "Report on the Invertebrate, Cretaceous and Tertiary Fossils of the Upper Missouri Country" (Washington, 1876).

McMahan, Virgil E. The Artists of Washington, DC, 1796-1996. The Artists of Washington, Washington, DC, 1995.

MEEK, FIELDING BRADFORD

Illustrator born in 1817 who was for many years on the staff of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. A paleontologist and stratigrapher by profession, he was both artistic and scientific mentor to W.H. Holmes, who he hired as an illustrator. He tutored Holmes in illustration techniques and introduced him to the merits of each method of reproduction available to illustrate particular scientific reports. He contributed illustrations to the official report of W.W. Whipple's Railroad Survey Expedition, published in 1856. His woodcuts for James Dana's Manual of Geology (1863) were said to have significantly influenced teaching and field identification. His ability to render fossils by line and shading,

with wash highlights, was unsurpassed by any of his contemporaries. He died in Washington, DC in 1876. REFS: NELSON (p. 255); TAFT (p. 27).