

Henry Nes

(20 May 1799 – 10 Sep 1850)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Pennsylvania; born in York, Pa., May 20, 1799; completed preparatory studies and was graduated from Princeton College; studied medicine and practiced in York, Pa.; elected as an Independent to the 28th Congress (March 4, 1843 - March 3, 1845); elected to the 30th and 31st Congresses and served from March 4, 1847 until his death in York, Pa., September 10, 1850; interment in Prospect Hill Cemetery

The National Intelligencer, Friday, September 13, 1850

We regret to learn that Dr. Henry Ness, a Representative in Congress, from the 15th District of Pennsylvania, died at his residence in York on Tuesday night. He has been ill for a long time and in consequence of sickness has been absent from his seat in the House during most of the present session. His death will be no doubt be formally announced in the House today.

The National Intelligencer, Saturday, Sept. 14, 1850

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Journal of yesterday having been read--

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, rose and addressed the House as follows:

Mr. Speaker: It is my painful duty to announce the death of another member of this House. The Hon. Henry Ness, late Representative of the fifteenth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, expired at his residence on the evening of the 10th instant. For a long time he had been afflicted with a painful and wasting disease.

Dr. Ness was a native of the borough of York, where he constantly resided until his death. His parents were among the most respectable and influential citizens of that ancient town. Properly appreciating the benefits of knowledge, they gave their son a liberal and professional education. He rose to considerable eminence, and acquired a large practice in his profession; which he followed until the people of his district required his public services.

How he was esteemed here, I need not inform you, who knew him. When his health permitted, and sometimes when it would hardly justify his attendance, he was assiduous in the discharge of his public duties. At the commencement of this session of Congress he rose from a bed of sickness, and at great personal risk came here to attend the organization of this House. Nor did he permit himself to be a day absent until disease rendered him too feeble to attend.

Few men possessed as great and as enviable popularity as he. He was repeatedly elected to Congress from a district which never returned any other man of the same political party. His popularity was not accidental, or evanescent; for his constituents had known him from his childhood. It was founded on the most amiable qualities of the human heart. Benevolence, generosity, and unfeigned pity for misfortune were prominent characteristics of his nature. No child of affliction was ever so poor or humble as to seek his professional or pecuniary assistance in vain. The poor and the afflicted were all his friends; and their sorrow at his grave will do more honor to his obsequies, than could the most splendid equipages of the great.

He has left behind him numerous respectable, attached, and mourning friends; but not a single enemy. If the blessings of the unfortunate and the sincere prayers of pure and grateful hearts can furnish a safe passport to a better world, his has been a happy exit from this.

I move the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this House has heard with deep sensibility the annunciation of the death of the Hon. Henry Ness, a member from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved. That this House tenders to the relatives of the deceased the expression of its sympathy in this afflicting event; and, as a testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased, the members and officers of the House will go into mourning by wearing crape on the left arm for thirty days.

Resolved. That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the House do now adjourn. The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

And the House accordingly adjourned.