

Augustus James Pleasanton

(21 Jan 1808 – 26 Jul 1894)

Pleasanton. On Thursday, July 26, 1894 at his country residence, Chestnut Grove, Pa. Augustus James Pleasanton in the 87th year of his age. Funeral services at Chestnut Grove, Pa., on the arrival of the 8:45 train at Overbrook on Saturday morning. Interment at Washington, Congressional Cemetery at 2 o'clock p.m.

The Washington Evening Star, Friday, July 27, 1894

Death of Gen. Pleasanton

Gen. August J. Pleasanton died in Philadelphia yesterday after a lingering illness of pneumonia. He was born in this city eighty-six years ago and came of a distinguished family, his father, Stephen Pleasanton, having been associated with the national government for over half a century. The General graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1826. After practicing law in Philadelphia for some years, he enlisted in the Pennsylvania militia, and at the outbreak of the civil war was made commander of the home guard of Philadelphia, serving with distinction.

Gen. Pleasanton was the originator of the theory that the sun's rays, when passed through blue glass, were particularly stimulating not only to vegetation, but to the health and growth of animals. The theory attracted widespread attention, and produced "the blue glass craze," which was at its height in 1878. He wrote a work on this subject and delivered numerous lectures before scientific societies.

The Evening Star, July 30, 1894

Gen. Pleasanton's Funeral

The interment of the remains of the late Gen. Augustus James Pleasanton of Philadelphia was made at the Congressional cemetery Saturday afternoon. Shortly after 2 o'clock the casket and remains, accompanied by a few of the immediate relatives, arrived in the city from Philadelphia and the drive to the cemetery made. In the extreme eastern end of the cemetery the dead soldier was laid to rest with a few simple ceremonies.

Cullum. Biographical Register of the U.S. Military Academy

Class of 1826: Augustus J. Pleasanton

Born and appointed, Washington D.C. Ranked 20th of 41 Cadet at the Military Academy, July 1, 1822, to July 1, 1826, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to Bvt. 2d Lieut., 6th Infantry and 2d Lieut., 3d Artillery. Transferred to 1st Artillery, October 24, 1826.

Served in garrison at Ft. Monroe, Va. (Artillery School for Practice), 1826-27; and on Topographical duty, June 16, 1827, to Jan. 17, 1828, and June 14, 1828 to June 30, 1830. Resigned, June 30, 1830.

Counselor at Law, Philadelphia, Pa., since 1832. Brigade Major, Pennsylvania Militia 1833-35, -- and Colonel 1835-45, being severely wounded, July 7, 1844, with a musket ball, while commanding his regiment, in a desperate conflict with a formidable body of armed rioters in Southwark, Philadelphia County, Pa. Asst. Adjutant-General and Paymaster-General of the State of Pennsylvania, Dec. 11, 1838 to Oct 11, 1839, during political disturbances at Harrisburg, Pa. President of Harrisburg, Portsmouth, Mountjoy, and Lancaster Railroad Company, Pa., 1839-40.

Served during the Rebellion of the Seceding State's 1861-66; as Brig. General, Pennsylvania Militia, May 16, 1861, to organize and command a Home Guard of 10,000 men of the several arms of cavalry, artillery, and infantry, for the defense of the city of Philadelphia, Pa.

Author of Scientific Papers -- "On the Influence of the Blue Color of the Sky in Developing Animal and Vegetable Life," 1861-78. Residence, Philadelphia, Pa.