

Henry Lee Heiskell

(16 Mar 1803 – 12 Aug 1855)

Heiskell. On the 12th instant, Dr. Henry Lee Heiskell, Surgeon, U.S. Army.

Heitman: Born Virginia, appointment from Virginia. Assistant surgeon, July 13, 1832; Major Surgeon, July 7, 1838; Died August 12, 1855.

From Antoinette W. Roades, October 8, 2003

Henry Lee Heiskell was a native of the Valley of Virginia. His parents belonged to that Swiss-German element at the Valley's northern end -- that is, the so-called Shenandoah Valley Dutch. He received his MD in 1828 at the University of Pennsylvania. His first wife was his first cousin, Margaret Sowers (a younger sister of Julia Ann Sowers), who was then the widow of Daniel Baldwin (a son of Revolutionary War surgeon Cornelius Baldwin and himself a physician with a Penn MD). That marriage also made Heiskell stepfather -- apparently both a loving and well loved one -- to Margaret (Sowers) Baldwin's only child, Mary Julia Baldwin. During the Civil War, that stepchild would become headmistress of her Staunton, Virginia alma mater, Augusta Female Seminary, then build it over many decades into the institution that would bear her name as Mary Baldwin College.

Margaret (Sowers)(Baldwin) Heiskell died only a few years after her marriage to Henry Lee Heiskell. He subsequently married Elizabeth Kortright Gouverneur. She was the daughter of Maria Hester Monroe (daughter of Pres. Monroe) whose 1820 wedding to Samuel Lawrence Gouverneur (her first cousin on her mother's side) was the first-ever in the White House. With Elizabeth, Dr. Heiskell had several children who distinguished themselves in the Washington-Baltimore area. Meanwhile, he distinguished himself. Indeed, during the Mexican War he was for a time Acting U.S. Surgeon General.

After Dr. Heiskell's death, Elizabeth Kortright (Gouverneur) Heiskell married two more times. President Monroe spent his last years in the New York home of Maria and Samuel Gouverneur.

Death of Hester Heiskell of Oxon Hill, widow of Dr. Peter H. Heiskell, June 4, 1903, p. 14.

The Evening Star, January 29, 1914, p. 10

Henry L. Heiskell Dead

Born in Washington in 1830 and Spent Life Here

Henry Lee Heiskell, an old resident of Washington, died at his apartment in the Wilton yesterday morning. Funeral services will be held tomorrow morning at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 15th and V streets, with interment in Mount Olivet cemetery.

Mr. Heiskell was an Elk and also a Knight of Columbus. His wife and two daughters, Mrs. Edward Sefton of New York and Mrs. Harry Freeman Clark of this city, survive him.

He was born in this city October 17, 1830 his father being Dr. Henry Lee Heiskell at that time surgeon general of the army and his mother formerly being Elizabeth Gouverneur, granddaughter of President Monroe. He entered the Naval Academy, but resigned therefrom upon the death of his

father. He entered the meteorological service of the government later, with which work he was connected thirty-six years. In 1907 he became chief of the marine division of the weather bureau. He had been advanced to the position of professor of meteorology.