

## Thomas Holliday Hicks

(2 Sep 1798 – 14 Feb 1865)

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### *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989*

A Senator from Maryland; born near East New Market, Dorchester, Co., Md., September 2, 1798; attended the local subscription schools; sheriff of Dorchester Co. in 1824; member State legislature 1830; member of the State electoral college in 1836 and while a member of the Governor's council in 1837; register of wills of Dorchester Co. 1838-1851, 1855-1861; member of the Maryland constitutional convention in 1851; elected Governor of Maryland in 1857 and served from January 13, 1858 to January 8, 1862; appointed and subsequently elected as a Unionist to the U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of James A. Pearce and served from December 29, 1862 until his death in Washington, D.C. February 14, 1865; interment in the Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, Md.

*The Evening Star, Feb. 13, 1865*

### **Death of Senator Hicks**

In our first edition we announced the death of Senator Hicks, and we now add some particulars of interest.

On Saturday afternoon, President Lincoln, having heard of the serious illness of Senator H., visited him and spent some time by his bedside, Mr. H. at the time being unable to speak. Senator Johnson, Representative Webster, ex-Gov. Thomas, and, in fact, the entire Maryland delegation, together with many other members of Congress, also visited him on Saturday and yesterday.

Governor Hicks was a member of the Methodist Church, and during his last illness was visited several times by Rev. Dr. B.H. Nadal, of Wesley Chapel, who each time, after conversing with him on spiritual subjects, closed with prayer. Dr. Nadal's last visit was last evening, when, after conversing some time, he called the attention of Mr. H. to his condition, asking him if he was aware that his earthly career was about to close, and if so to signify by raising his hand. He was then asked if he felt that he was ready, if he felt his Savior near, to which he replied by raising his arm in a decisive gesture, while his countenance was suffused with a happy smile, and in a moment after his eyes filled with tears. After a most impressive prayer, during which the dying man seemed to follow him closely, Mr. Nadal took his leave.

Shortly after Dr. Nadal left him (about 11 o'clock) Mr. H. grew unconscious, and from that time he gradually sunk until 7 o'clock this morning, when he breathed his last.

There were present with him during last night, and at the time of his death, Mr. J.B. Chapman, W.J. Nicholson, Dr. Bliss, Dr. Lippincott, Col. Powell, of Miss.; and today his remains are in charge of Messrs. Chapman, Nicholson and Harris, of Md., while Mr. Brown, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate is superintending the arrangements for the funeral.

Gov. Hicks leaves two sons and one daughter. One of his sons was on his way, and a telegram from him reached Mr. H. last evening a few hours before his senses left him.

Governor Hicks, at the time of his death, was in his sixty-eighth year, having been born on the 2d of September, 1798, near Cambridge, in Dorchester county, Md. He was one of a large family of children, and his parents were not able to give him a collegiate course, but he attended the county schools and secured a fair education. He aided his father in the meantime in working the farm and in supporting the family, and on reaching the age of twenty-one started in life without any means.

At that age he was appointed county constable and served as such until 1821, when he was elected Sheriff of the county, and subsequently engaged in mercantile business at Vienna, in Dorchester county,

where he remained several years. In 1838 he was elected a member of the electoral college of the State of Maryland. The same year he was elected to the Legislature, and was made one of Governor Veazy's council in 1837.

In 1838 he was appointed register of wills of Dorchester, and in 1846 and in 1850 he was a member of the constitutional convention. After serving for four years as register of wills, he declined further to serve, and a Mr. Mitchell was elected, but on his decease Gov. Hicks was reappointed to the offices, which he held at the time of his election in 1853 to the Governorship of Maryland.

On the death of Senator Pearce in 1863 he was appointed by Gov. Bradford to fill the vacancy, and subsequently was elected by the Legislature for the unexpired term which ends March 4th, 1867. By his death the country has lost a good man and a true patriot.

His staunch adherence to the Government during the early part of the war aided very materially in the suppression of the Baltimore riot in 1861, and checked in a great degree the effort of secessionists to carry the State out of the Union, and from the time of his taking his seat in the Senate he gave a hearty support to the Government for the suppression of the rebellion.

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*The Evening Star, February 15, 1865*

#### **The Funeral of Gov. Hicks**

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather a large throng assembled at the Metropolitan Hotel this morning, to participate in the funeral exercises of Hon. Thomas H. Hicks, U.S. Senator from Maryland.

The remains which had been embalmed by Dr. Thomas Holmes of this city, were arrayed in a suit of black cloth, with black satin vest and cravat, and looked very natural, the features being placid as if the deceased were in natural sleep. The corpse was placed in a handsome metallic casket, with four silver handles on either side and a heavy silver plate on the top, bearing the inscription:

"Hon. T. Holliday Hicks, U.S. Senator from Maryland. Died February 13th, 1865. Aged 67 years."

This casket furnished by Harvey & Co., was lined with fine white merino, and otherwise fitted up with quiet good taste.

The funeral cortege left the Metropolitan shortly before two o'clock, the corpse, which was removed last evening from the room of deceased, No. 188, being borne to the hearse by eight young men, employees of the Senate, preceded by the clergyman, Dr. Nadal, of Wesley Chapel. The committee of arrangements of the Senate and the pall-bearers each wearing a white scarf came next.

After these followed the mourners, T. Pratt Hicks, (son of the deceased), Mrs. Woodside (step-daughter of the deceased), with her husband, Bond Chaplin, the private secretary of the deceased, Col. Powell, of Mississippi Mr. W. Nicholson, of Caroline county, Md., Hon. Reverdy Johnson, the colleague of

the deceased, with the Maryland Congressional delegation, and a number of gentlemen and ladies from Maryland, followed by Mayor Chapman, of Baltimore, and a delegation of twenty-eight members of the city council of that city, with a number of the officers of the Maryland militia, among whom we noticed General Ridgely.

The escort was formed of delegations of Washington and Columbia Commanderies of Knights Templar, with whom were several Knights Templar, with whom were several Knights Templar of Baltimore. The Knights were headed by the band of Col. Tompkins' (Quartermaster's) regiment, under the leadership of Prof. Dish.

Gov. Bradford, of Maryland, accompanied by his staff, including the Secretary of State, W.B. Hill, Esq.; the Senate of Maryland, headed by Lieut. Gov. Cox, and the House of Delegates, with Speaker Frazier at the head, accompanied by W.R. Cole, Esq., the clerk, and the other officers of the House, arrived shortly before 2 o'clock in a special train from Annapolis, and immediately proceeded to the Senate chamber to pay the last sad tribute to the memory of the deceased.

At two o'clock the members of the House of Representatives, preceded by their Sergeant-at-Arms and Speaker Colfax, entered the Senate chamber. The Speaker took his seat at the left of Senator Clark, President pro tem. of the Senate and the members to the right of the chair. A few moments after the Supreme Court of the United States, preceded by Chief Justice Chase, was announced by United States Marshal Lamon, and were seated immediately on the right of the President of the Senate.

President Lincoln, accompanied by Secretaries Seward and Dennison, and Attorney General Speed, followed, and took seats in front of the desk, to the right of the main isle, and the visitors from the Maryland Legislature on the left.

As the solemn music of the band with the approaching cortege stole into the silent chamber from the corridors, and swelled into the fullness of the funeral dirge, the effect was impressive. The band, halting outside the main entrance to the floor of the Senate Chamber, the corpse was borne in, preceded by Rev. Dr. McMurdy, Chaplain of the Knight Templares, of which deceased was a member, and followed by the cortege.

Rev. Dr. Bowman, Chaplain of the Senate, briefly spoke of his relations with the deceased, and was followed by Rev. Dr. Nadal, pastor of Wesley Chapel, in an appropriate discourse.

The speaker referred to the early history of the deceased Senator, his great moral worth and elevation to the highest honors, as a lesson to other nations of the character and privileges of the American people, and an illustration of that superior nobility which of itself is far more honorable than any worldly glory it may bring.

Eloquently portraying the patriotic course of Gov. Hicks during the great troubles in Maryland at the outbreak of the rebellion, the speaker proceeded with a touching tribute to his religious character and experience, and after describing the affecting scenes attending the last hours of the distinguished Senator, concluded by an exhortation for all to stand in readiness for the messenger of death.

After prayer by the Chaplain of the Senate, and the performance of "Old Hundred" by the band in the reporter's gallery, the funeral procession was again formed, and proceed to the Congressional Cemetery, in the following order:

The Chaplains of Congress for the occasion

The Physician who attended the decease

Committee of Arrangements

Mr. Foot                      Mr. Buckalew

Mr. Anthony                Mr. Morgan

Mr. Willey                 Mr. Wade

Escort of Knights Templare

Pall-bearers

Mr. Collamer                      Mr. Lane, of Ind.  
Mr. Davis      The      Mr. Foster  
Mr. Doolittle    Corpse    Mr. Hale

The family and friends of the deceased

The Senator and Representatives from the State of Maryland, the Governor and Aids  
Lieutenant Governor, the Senate and House of Delegates and the Court of Appeals of said State, and  
the Mayor and City Councils of the City of Baltimore as mourners

The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate of the United States

The Members of the Senate preceded by the Vice President of the United States and the Secretary  
of the Senate

The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives

The Members of the House of Representatives, preceded by its Speaker and Clerks

The President of the United States (Lincoln)

The Heads of Departments

The Diplomatic Corps

Judges of the United States

Officers of the Executive Departments

Officers of the Army and Navy

The Mayor of Washington

Citizens and Strangers

*The Evening Star, March 7, 1865*

### **The Remains of Senator Hicks**

The remains of Senator Hicks left this morning in the 11:15 train for Baltimore, on their way to Dorchester county, Md., where they will be interred. The corpse, which was placed in the vault at the Congressional Cemetery on the 15th of February, was removed this morning to the railroad station by Mr. Harvey, the undertaker, and placed in a special car furnished by Mr. W.P. Smith, the master of transportation, which left at 11:15. The remains were received at the depot by Messrs. Valient, Taylor and Robinson, of the second branch of the Baltimore Councils, and Messrs. Ewalt, Foreman and Kraft, of the first branch, who, with Mr. Bond Chaplin, the private secretary of the deceased, and Mr. Corcoran, of the Post Office Department, a relative, accompanied the remains to Baltimore, where they were expected to arrive about one o'clock.

The corpse was found to be in a perfect state of preservation, and even the beautiful wreath of flowers which was placed on the coffin the day of the funeral (February 15th).

On arriving at Baltimore, the remains will be received by Mayor Chapman and the members of the City Councils, with a military escort of about 400 men, and will be taken to the hall of the Maryland Institute, where they will be laid in state, to be visited tomorrow when the hall will be open. On Thursday they will be taken to Cambridge, Md., near which place they will be interred.