

## Henry Huntt

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**Huntt.** Yesterday at 3 o'clock p.m., Henry Huntt, M.D. His funeral will take place on Sunday at 3 o'clock p.m. His friends and acquaintances are requested to attend without further notice.

*The National Intelligencer, October 1, 1838*

In the death of Doctor Henry Huntt we have to lament the loss of a public and private character. Few men enjoyed a more respected and distinguished station in our society than he; few ever possessed a higher degree of confidence and esteem, both as a citizen and physician, or enjoyed a more irreproachable private character. Upwards of twenty-five years was he a resident of this city, and, during that time he was viewed as the skillful physician, the honest and honorable citizen, the friend to the poor and distressed. To his professional brethren he was ever courteous; to his patients kind, considerate, and attentive; to his friends ardent, confiding and sincere; to his young and interesting family tender and affectionate. As a practitioner of physic he was prompt and efficient. To great powers of discernment he added unusual discrimination and judgment. To his extensive experience he owed much of his success, though he by no means relied on his own experience for professional facts. He was a student to the day of his death, and kept pace with the improvements in his profession; unbiased by preconceived theory, he read and studied everything that was worthy of attention. He was a native of Calvert county, Maryland, where he first practiced his profession. By the advice of his friends he entered the Navy, which he was induced to leave some months afterwards by private considerations. In 1812 he was appointed surgeon of the United States Hospital at Burlington, where he remained till 1814, when he resigned, and returned to this city, having earned a reputation by his skill and attention, (at a moment when the hospital was crowded with diseased and wounded soldiers and officers) which he carried to his grave. While engaged in private practice in this city, he enjoyed the confidence of most of the distinguished men of the country assembled here. He was the physician to the five last Presidents of the United States, successively; the medical friend and adviser of nearly all the foreign ministers, besides having very extensive practice among the citizens, which he retained until his death. He was President of the Board of Health of this city for a number of years, and no one could have been more watchful of the health and comforts of his fellow citizens than he was. I need not remind the citizens of Washington how much they owe him for his activity, promptness, firmness and skill, during the summer of 1832 when we were infested with one of the most wide-spread and fatal diseases that ever invaded a country. When no one could calculate on an hour's life, he, surrounded by difficulties and overwhelmed by professional engagements, stood forth as their friend and adviser; and it was to his exertions mainly that we were indebted for the arrest of this disastrous plague. As a proof of the esteem entertained for his professional attainments, he was presented with honorary diplomas from most of the celebrated medical institutions of Europe, besides having the honorary degree of M.D. conferred on him by our most respectable medical universities. He wrote but little; but what he did write was always characteristic of the man, plain and purely practical. To attain brevity he would often sacrifice style; his object in writing was to instruct others, not to benefit himself; not "merely to see his name in print." He was an ambitious man, but it was an honorable and laudable ambition; it was to attain excellence in his profession, to be useful to mankind, and to diffuse his usefulness, and this he certainly attained in a high degree. Years must pass before the benefits of his judicious counsels are forgotten. The name and authority of Huntt will ever be honored while truth, professional honesty, and promptness in professional practice have an admirer. To his immediate friends and family it is gratifying to know that

though he was taken from them prematurely, estimated by his usefulness, he had lived a long life, and, having rapidly fulfilled the task allotted him, he has gone to receive from that source upon which he so confidently relied his merited reward.

M.

*History of the Medical Society of D.C.*

Born in Maryland, 1782. Licentiate of Med. and Chirurg. Faculty, Maryland; Honorary M.D., 1824, Univ. Md. An incorporator of the Medical Society under both charters; Hospital Surgeon, U.S. Army, 1814-15. The first Health Officer of Washington, afterward President of Board of Health, 1822-33. Consulting physician, Central Cholera Hospital, 1832; one of the founders of the Medical Association, D.C.; member Washington Medical Society; delegate to American Pharmaceutical Convention, 1819; established a Dispensary in Washington, Oct. 20, 1819. Died Sept. 21, 1838. Author of "Observations on a change of climate in pulmonary consumption," etc., Washington, 1834; "A visit to the Red Sulphur Springs of Virginia," etc., Washington, 1838, Boston, 1839, Philadelphia, 1853. See Brown's History, p. 270; Powell's History, p. 107; Busey's Reminiscences, p. 133; Medical Examiner Philadelphia, 1838, p. 363.

*Will of Dr. Henry Huntt (dtd. July 17, 1837, probated Sept. 28, 1838 ???)*

Having purchased at a tax sale the undivided property near the Basin, now occupied by Messrs. Smoot and Radcliff, I request Exrs. to have property equally divided agreeable to the will of the late Gov. Thos. Sim Lee, between his granddaughters Mary L. Ringgold, Eliza L. Ringgold, Sarah B.L. Thomas, and Anna Maria Huntt; having also bought Lot 72 adjoining the said Basin and contiguous to the lower bridge, Georgetown, belong to Eliza L Ringgold, request Exrs. restore to Eliza L. Ringgold, title to said lot.

In case of my death, I appoint an old and trusty friend, Gen. Geo. Gibson, and my kind and excellent kinsman, Richard Smith and John A. Smith, Esqrs., my Exrs.

Wits.: G.D. Hanson, Jr.; William Brent; Henry Naylor

Codicil, appoint friends George Gibson, Richard Smith and John A Smith as guardians to