

Alpheus Hyatt, Jr.

(5 Apr 1838 – 18 Jan 1902)

The Evening Star, January 17, 1902, p. 16

Prof. Hyatt Dead

Distinguished Scientist, Native of This City, Passes Away

The United States geological survey has been informed of the death at Cambridge, Mass., of Prof. Alpheus Hyatt, an acknowledged authority on the ancient fossils related to the nautilus and the author of profound studies on sponges, fresh-water polyzoa and other low forms of life. Prof. Hyatt was one of the most distinguished collaborators of the survey.

Alpheus Hyatt was born in this city April 5, 1838. His education was obtained in the Maryland Military Academy, Yale University, the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard, and in various German schools. He was a student under Louis Agassiz while in Cambridge. During the civil war he served in the 47th Massachusetts Volunteers and became a captain. With Morse, Packard and Putnam he was one of the founders of the Peabody Academy of Sciences in 1867, being at that time one of the curators of the celebrated Essex Institute of Salem. The four naturalists mentioned formed the scientific staff of the Peabody Academy for many years and established the American Naturalist. In 1870 Prof. Hyatt was elected custodian and in 1881 curator of the Boston Society of Natural History, serving at the same time as professor of zoology and paleontology in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Up to the time of his death he had charge of the important collection of invertebrate fossils in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. Among his other services in the interest of science he was a founder of the Marine Laboratory at Annisquam, of the Teachers' School of Science, of the American Society of Naturalists, of which body he was the first president, and a member of numerous societies organized for scientific research, notably the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. Brown University conferred upon him in 1898 the degree of doctor of laws.

Prof. Hyatt married a Miss Andetta Beebe of Valatia, N.Y., in 1867, and leaves a widow, a married son and two daughters.