

Heman Allen Moore

(27 Aug 1809 – 3 Apr 1844)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Ohio; born in Plainfield, Washington County, Vermont, August 27, 1809; pursued an academic course; studied law in Rochester, New York; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Columbus, Ohio; elected as a Democrat to the 28th Congress and served from March 4, 1843 until his death in Columbus, Ohio, April 3, 1844; interment in Green Lawn Cemetery.

The National Intelligencer, April 8, 1844

Letters were received in this city on Saturday, announcing the death of the Hon. Heman Allen Moore, one of the Representatives in Congress from the State of Ohio. He left this city a week or two ago, in consequence of ill-health, for his residence at Columbus. He grew worse as he proceeded, but lived to reach his home, where he died on the 3d instant. His death will be announced today in the House of Representatives by one of his colleagues.

The National Intelligencer, April 9, 1844

SENATE

As soon as the Journal was read, a message was received from the House of Representatives announcing the death of the Hon. Heman Allen Moore, of Ohio; when--

Mr. Tappan rose and addressed the Senate as follows: Mr. President: The message from the House announcing the death of my honorable colleague of that body, imposes upon me the solemn and painful duty of moving the honors usually paid to the memory of those, who, having been our brethren in the public service, have left us to pass that bourne whence no traveler returns.

Heman Allen Moore was a native of the town of Plainfield, Vermont. His parents were respectable, but poor. He was a self-educated man. About six years ago he removed to Ohio, and settled with his family in the city of Columbus. He had chosen the law for his profession; but, being poor, he sought and obtained employment as a schoolmaster for present support. His learning, his talents, and correct deportment soon gained for him the good will of the society around him; his business as a lawyer was increasing, he devoted his whole attention to its labors; and such was his character and standing, that, before he had lived in the State six years, he was promoted to the office of adjutant general of her militia. At the last election for member of Congress in Ohio in the Columbus district, in which were many able men who were candidates for nomination, he was preferred to all his competitors, and was elected by the people.

General Moore had not been many weeks attending Congress until he was compelled by disease to devote his whole care to his own preservation; he so far recovered as to attend again a few days in the House, but it was evident that he was exerting himself beyond his strength; the advice of his friends coincided with his own opinion that a visit to his family, the exercise of the journey, and the repose and kind attentions he would there receive, would restore his health. It was a mistake; for, from the time he left here, his strength declined; and when he arrived there on the 31st of March, it was evident that he had returned to his family but to die in their embraces. On the 3d of April he expired.

General Moore was a well educated man. Though not blest with a hardy frame and robust health, he possessed great intellectual energy. His death at the early age of thirty-four is a calamity to his family, and a great loss to the State which had adopted him. His political opinions were soundly

democratic. Of his opinions upon theological subjects nothing is known. His character was pure and virtuous; we may therefore conclude, that

“For forms of faith while graceless bigots fight,
His can't be wrong whose life is in the right.”

Mr. T. concluded by submitting the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has received with deep sensibility the communication from the House of Representatives announcing the death of the Hon. Heman Allen Moore, a Representative in Congress from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That, in token of sincere and high respect for the memory of the deceased, the members and officers of the Senate will wear crape on the left arm, as mourning, for thirty days; and, as a further mark of respect,

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn.

The question was put, and, the resolutions being unanimously agreed to, The Senate accordingly adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Obituary

Mr. Weller, of Ohio, rose and addressed the House as follows:

Mr. Speaker: Death has again been amongst us. Another of our associates has been taken from this Hall, and transferred to another, and I trust a better world—to a house not “made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” My colleague, Heman Allen Moore, who but a few days since stood upon this floor as one of the proud Representatives of a great and powerful State, now sleeps in the silent tomb; his spirit rests in the hands of the Creator. He died at his residence, (Columbus, Ohio) on Wednesday morning, the 3d instant.

Gen. Moore came here at the commencement of the present session apparently in good health, but, after a few weeks' labor in this Hall, was stricken by a disease which, although sometimes slow in its progress, never fails in the end to baffle the skill of the most successful physician. Consumption had fastened its fangs upon his vitals, and after a few months of suffering, closed his career. He left this city on ___ for his family, with foreboding that his days were few and numbered, and that he would not live to return to his post. Notwithstanding his debility, it will be remember that, on the day preceding his departure, he was upon this floor, warmly and zealously advocating and carrying through a bill in which a portion of his immediate constituents felt a deep solicitude. It was the last act of his political life.

The deceased was a native of Vermont, where he received a liberal education. He studied law in Rochester, New York, and, after completing his professional studies and forming a matrimonial alliance, removed to Columbus, Ohio, where he maintained a respectable standing at the bar. At the time of his decease he was about thirty-four years of age. After a residence of only six or seven years in Ohio he was appointed Adjutant General, and soon after, at the last Congressional election, selected as the Representative upon this floor of one of the largest and most respectable districts. Notwithstanding he was a young man, comparatively a stranger, and with no experience whatever in legislation, his stern integrity, strict morality, useful talents, and unflinching perseverance, gave undoubted assurance that in his hands the interests of the people would never be compromised. I need scarcely say to those who witnessed his brief career as a Representative that this confidence was not misplaced.

It is perhaps difficult to engage actively for any length of time in the exciting scenes of party strife without incurring the enmity of those whose interests, opinions, or feelings may be counter to ours. Political differences too often affect our private relations, and convert into enemies those who, under other circumstances, would have been bound together by the strongest ties of friendship. General Moore, however, had no enemies in this hall. Open, frank, and independent in the maintenance of those principles which he conscientiously believed were inseparably connected with the prosperity of

the country, yet kind, courteous, and conciliating towards those who differed with him, he gave offense to none. Whilst he enjoyed the unlimited confidence of his political friends, he always retained the respect and esteem of his opponents.

It is some consolation to his friends here to know that he reached home in time to receive the kindness and attention of his family "in the hour and article of death." He died not amongst strangers and in a strange land, far from his home and kindred, but in the bosom of his family, and surrounded by a generous constituency, who had honored him with their confidence, and whose regard he so richly merited. An amiable and devoted wife hung over his bed of suffering and smoothed the pillow of death. No condolence of ours, however sincerely offered—no tears of sympathy, be they ever so profusely shed, can heal the agonized heart of the bereaved widow. To her the loss is irreparable. He upon whom she had placed her hopes of happiness in domestic life, he around whom all the warm affections of her heart had been gathered, and whom she loved with all the enthusiasm and devotion of her sex, the father and protector of her three helpless children, has been torn from her bosom forever. The heart that once beat in unison with hers has ceased to pulsate forever. The eye of affection, which once carried joy and gladness to her soul, has been closed by the cold hand of death. The partner of her pleasures and pains, the idol of her heart, has gone to that land where "sin and sorrow are known no more," "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest." That God "who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb" can alone console and sustain her under this afflicting dispensation. May we not also hope that He who has promised to be a "father to the fatherless" will watch over and protect the helpless orphans left to mourn the loss of an earthly parent.

Day after day are we admonished of the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof. How often has the truth been forced upon our minds by impressive lessons that "in the midst of life we are in death." Today the politician stands in this hall, the proud representative of a free people, commanding by his genius our respect and engaging our attention; tomorrow comes a withering frost, and those lips of eloquence, which could once arouse the soul to all the sublime feelings of patriotism and valor, become motionless and silent, to be heard no more. "The grass withereth and the flower fadeth." But a few days since my deceased friend and colleague sat by my side watching over the interests of his constituents with a zeal that never tired, a vigilance that never flagged; today he sleeps in the silent grave, his voice has been hushed and will no more be heard in this hall. This seat which once knew him will know him no more forever.

He had but just commenced his career on the busy theatre of life. Honored with a seat in the national councils, happy in his domestic relations, surrounded by kind and devoted friends, looking forward with high hopes of future honor and usefulness, he has been cut down in the morning of life by the unsparing hand of death. "Life's fitful fever is over," and no man shall see him more. Oh!

"What shadows we are, what shadows we pursue."

Should not the number of our associates who have been stricken down from our side within the last few months admonish us of the littleness of our controversies here, the uncertainty of our sojourn on earth, and the necessity for being prepared to take our departure to that "bourne whence no traveler returns?" Let us be ready, "for no one knoweth the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh."

As a tribute of respect to the memory of our deceased friend and late associate, I offer the following resolutions and ask their adoption:

Resolved, That this House has heard with the liveliest sensibility the annunciation of the death of the Hon. Heman Allen Moore, late a member from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That this House tenders to the family and relatives of the deceased the expression of its sympathy on this afflicting event, and as a testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased, the members and officers will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That, as a further testimony of respect, this House will now adjourn.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted. Whereupon the House adjourned.