

**THE MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR  
THE SECOND SESSION OF  
THE FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS. 1884 -  
'85. IN SEVENTEEN VOLUMES. VOLUME  
6. - NOS. 27 AND 28**

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1884-'85.

IN SEVENTEEN VOLUMES.

Volume 6.—Nos. 27 and 28.

WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1885.



FONVILLAIN.

46TH CONGRESS, }  
2d Session. }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

{ MIS. DOC.  
No. 27.

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER



OF

# WILLIAM A. DUNCAN

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA).

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,

FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1885.

D.6.12.87

JOINT RESOLUTION for the printing of certain eulogies delivered in Congress upon the  
late William A. Duncan.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late William A. Duncan, a Representative in the Forty-eighth Congress from the State of Pennsylvania, twelve thousand five hundred copies, of which three thousand shall be for the use of the Senate and nine thousand five hundred for the use of the House of Representatives. And the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to have printed a portrait of the said William A. Duncan to accompany said eulogies; and for the purpose of engraving or printing said portrait the sum of five hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved, February 12th, 1885.



ADDRESSES  
ON THE  
DEATH OF WILLIAM A. DUNCAN.

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PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

December 1, 1884.

Mr. ERMENTROUT. Mr. Speaker, on me has devolved the sad duty of announcing to the House of Representatives the death of our late lamented colleague, WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, recently representing the nineteenth district of the State of Pennsylvania, composed of the counties of Adams, York, and Cumberland, which occurred at Gettysburg on the 14th of November last.

It is not my purpose now to make any remarks commemorative of the qualities and character of the deceased. Upon some future occasion that will be my sad duty. But on behalf of our delegation and of the constituents whom he represented I offer the following resolutions, and ask their adoption by the House.

The SPEAKER. The resolutions submitted by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be read.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with sincere regret the announcement of the death of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolution to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

The question being taken on the resolutions, they were unanimously adopted; and accordingly the House adjourned.

DECEMBER 17, 1884.

Mr. ERMENROUT, by unanimous consent, submitted the following resolution; which was read, considered, and adopted:

*Resolved*, That Monday, January 26, 1885, at 2.30 p. m., be fixed as the time for paying appropriate honor to the memory of the late Hon. W. A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

JANUARY 26, 1885.

The SPEAKER. The hour of half past two o'clock having arrived, the Chair will bring to the attention of the House the special order assigned for this time.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That Monday, January 26, 1885, at 2.30 p. m., be fixed as the time for paying appropriate honor to the memory of the late Hon. W. A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. ERMENROUT. I submit the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That this House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. W. A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

*Resolved*, That the business of the House be now suspended that fitting tribute may be paid to his memory.

*Resolved*, That as an additional mark of respect the House shall, at the conclusion of these ceremonies, adjourn.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

## Address of Mr. ERMENTROUT, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, the subject of these funeral rites, was born in Franklin Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1836. He died at Gettysburg, in his native county, November 14, 1884, in his forty-ninth year. His paternal ancestors originally went from the neighborhood of Edinburgh to Donegal, Ireland, from whence, about the year 1750, his grandfather, Seth Duncan, emigrated to the United States, and located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He there married and lived till late in life, when he removed to Abbottstown, then York (now Adams) County. Seth had a number of children, most of whom became notable people. It was indeed a remarkable family. James and Matthew were brave officers in the Revolutionary war. William, after whom our late colleague was named, represented Philadelphia in the State assembly as representative and senator for several terms, and was an aid to Governor Simon Snyder during the war of 1812. His son, Abner L., was a distinguished lawyer in New Orleans, whither he had gone in 1806. He was one of General Jackson's aids at the battle of New Orleans, and counsel with Edward Livingstone in defending that general during his trial before Judge Hall for proclaiming martial law. His daughter Hannah became the wife of John Nicholson, the famous comptroller-general of Pennsylvania and partner of Robert Morris, the great American financier of the Revolution. Another daughter married Judge William Moulder, of Philadelphia. The most of them lived to a ripe old age. His son, Adam Seth Enos Duncan, the father of Mr. DUNCAN, was an exception. He died in 1840, aged fifty-one years. He, too, had been a soldier, serving in the war of 1812-'13 at Lundy's Lane, Chippewa, and Black Rock, and was twice wounded.

On the maternal side tributary rills of Pennsylvania-German blood steeled and calmed the Scotch-Irish flood of many generations coursing in his veins; for both grandmother and mother