

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
ON THE LIFE
AND CHARACTER
OF REUBEN ELLWOOD**

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Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of Reuben Ellwood by Various

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VARIOUS

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

REUBEN ELLWOOD,

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS),

DELIVERED IN THE

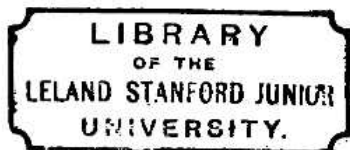
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,

FORTY NINTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1886.

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A. 1384

JOINT RESOLUTION to print twelve thousand five hundred copies of the eulogies on Reuben Ellwood, late a Representative in Congress.

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 Reuben Ellwood, a Representative-elect in the Forty-ninth Congress from the State of Illinois, twelve thousand five hundred copies, of which three thousand copies 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 Reuben Ellwood, to accompany said eulogies; and for the purpose of engraving and printing said portrait the sum of five hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved March 13, 1886.

ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE
DEATH OF REUBEN ELLWOOD.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

December 8, 1885.

Mr. HOPKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to perform the sad duty of announcing to the House the death of my predecessor, Hon. REUBEN ELLWOOD, late a member of this House from the State of Illinois, who died at his home in the city of Sycamore on the 1st day of July last. I desire also to express in some slight degree the profound sorrow of the people of the Fifth district of the State of Illinois in the death of their able and distinguished Representative.

I ask to have read the resolutions which I send to the desk, and beg leave to state that at some future and more convenient time the House will be called upon to further consider them and to accord to members the privilege of expressing the esteem in which the memory of the deceased is held.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That this House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. REUBEN ELLWOOD, late a member of this House from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of the House to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to communicate a copy of these proceedings to the Senate, and

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

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HOPKINS] asks that the resolutions just read lie on the table for the present, and states that he will request the House at some future time to designate

a day for their consideration. If there be no objection, that course will be pursued as to the resolutions proper. The last resolution proposes that the House do now adjourn; and the question is upon that motion.

The motion was agreed to; and accordingly the House adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

January 28, 1886.

Mr. HOPKINS. Mr. Speaker, this is the hour fixed by the order of the House for considering the resolutions now pending before this body relating to the death of my predecessor, Hon. REUBEN ELLWOOD; and I ask for their reading.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That this House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. REUBEN ELLWOOD, late a member of this House from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of the House to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to communicate a copy of these proceedings to the Senate; and

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

ADDRESSES
ON THE
DEATH OF REUBEN ELLWOOD.

Address of Mr. HOPKINS, of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, since the election of the members of this House to the Forty-ninth Congress the messenger of death has visited their number and taken one from among them in the person of my lamented predecessor, Hon. REUBEN ELLWOOD. ●

In the early hours of the morning, on the 1st day of July, 1885, after a long and painful struggle with that grim destroyer, Death, he yielded to his fate, acknowledged his conqueror, and peacefully and quietly as a sleeping babe passed over "the dark waters which roll round all the world." In his death the people of the fifth district of Illinois have lost a firm friend, a wise and conscientious legislator, an upright citizen, and an open-hearted, generous man.

Mr. ELLWOOD was born in Minden, Montgomery County, New York, February 17, 1821. His parents were Abraham and Sarah (De Long) Ellwood. They were poor, and with a large family of children to support, the subject of my remarks was early in life thrown upon his own resources for a livelihood.

In his boyhood the magnificent common-school system, which is the glory of the State he had the honor in part to represent on this floor, and which to-day opens the avenues to educational distinction in his native State to the plowman's son as well as the millionaire's, was unknown. The teacher who could explain the mysteries of multiplication and division, solve a problem in simple fractions, and work

to the rule of three, was regarded as eminently well qualified to instruct the youth of that day.

Mr. ELLWOOD easily mastered these rudiments of an education, and, being possessed of a strong, healthy body and vigorous, restless mind, at the early age of fifteen years longingly turned his gaze toward the broad and beautiful prairies of Illinois as opening a better field for his ambition.

In 1837, before he had attained his sixteenth birthday, he made the journey from his home in New York to De Kalb County, Illinois.

In these days of the steam-engine, the telegraph, and palace coaches such a journey seems but a slight undertaking. Not so then, however. The "covered wagon" was the passenger coach of that day, and with such a conveyance he made this journey.

There is an element of heroism in the brave and fearless manner in which at this age he took up the burdens of life, turned his back resolutely upon all the endearing scenes of childhood, and, with the blessings of his father and mother, joined the number who have converted the great prairies of that then far-off Western State into fruitful fields and dotted them all over with beautiful villages and thriving cities. The first twelve months he passed in Illinois were as a farm-hand for one William Miller, of Kingston, De Kalb County. His second year there he was engaged in building a dam across Fox River, at Geneva, in the adjoining county of Kane. We next find him at work in a brick-yard in what is now the city of Rockford. He entered a claim for one hundred and sixty acres of land near Sycamore, in De Kalb County, and continued in various kinds of manual labor for about four years. At the end of this period, in somewhat impaired health, he returned to New York. His experience in the West and among men had taught him the importance of a more thorough education, and shortly after his return home he became a student of Cherry Valley Academy, which at that time was one of the best educational institutions of its kind in that part of the State. He never graduated. After a short time at that academy he went to Glenville, Schenectady

County, and engaged first in the mill and lumber trade; then in the cultivation of broom-corn and the manufacture of brooms. He continued in this business for seven or eight years, and was so successful that at one time he employed as many as one hundred and thirty men.

Mr. ELLWOOD returned to Illinois in 1857, and from that time until his death was closely identified with the material interests of the city and county in which he lived. He engaged for a time in the hardware trade in Sycamore, and in connection with that dealt in farm machinery. His quick and comprehensive mind readily detected incompleteness and imperfection in these machines for the purposes for which they were designed, and being of an ingenious turn of mind he invented, patented, and applied to them various devices and improvements. This naturally led him into the manufacture of machines and different kinds of farm implements. For many years before his death he was interested in the largest manufactories in De Kalb County. As a business man he had few equals and no superiors in the section in which he lived. It would be uninteresting to go into the details of his business career and recite the different enterprises in which he was engaged during the various periods of his life and which affected the material prosperity of the beautiful city of Sycamore, his home for more than a quarter of a century. In his death the people who knew him all these years have met with a great if not irreparable loss.

Mr. ELLWOOD was married in 1849 to Miss Eleanor Vedder, of Schenectady. Six children blessed this union. His married life was a fortunate and happy one. And now the widow and four of these children live to mourn the loss of a kind and faithful husband, a loving and indulgent father.

Though not an educated man in the books, he was a keen and close observer of men, and had what no schools can give—the very genius of common sense. It was this that made him the successful business man that he was, in spite of his indifferent education. The name of Ellwood is as closely interwoven in the history of De Kalb County and