

THE DEMOCRAT

PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1870

DEATH OF HON. WILLIAM ENGLE

It becomes our painful duty to announce the demise of one of our old honored and useful citizens—Hon. William Engle—who died at his residence in Sweetwater, Menard county, on Tuesday morning last.

Mr. Engle was born in the State of Virginia in the year 1801 and, was, consequently, in his sixty-ninth year at the time of his death. His parents removed with him to the State of Ohio when he was quite small. He remained there until in 1821, when he removed to this county, where he has resided ever since. He was one of the first commissioners of Menard County, and aided with his talent and energy in establishing our county government. He was a strong partisan of the Democratic faith, and during the memorable campaign of 1858, at which time the contest was between Douglas and Lincoln for the United States Senate, lent his whole energies to the cause of the “Little Giant” . He was elected at the fall election of 1858 to the General Assembly where he cast his vote for Mr. Douglas, for whose interests he had devoted himself through the campaign—who was elected as all will remember. Mr. Engle filled several important positions in our county; was delegate to all our County Conventions and ever filled the positions to which he was assigned with distinction, and discharged his duties with great fidelity to the people whom he represented. In the Legislature he was a leading Democrat, and from his power and energy received the *sobriquet* of the “old Rhinoceros,” by which name he was readily recognized in political circles.

Mr. Engle was a member of the Christian church to the interests and welfare of which, of late years he has donated much of his time and talent. He was a devoted lover of Christianity,, strictly, a temperance man in every sense of the term, and, in a word, the poor man’s friend, as many in our community can attest.

He died as he had lived, a Christian. The funeral sermon was preached to a large audience by Elder David T. Hughes, from the following text Rev. 14th c. 13 v.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yet, with the Spirit that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

The sermon is spoken of as having been one of the ablest and most affecting ever delivered in our country. It was, it may be said, the child preaching the funeral of the parent. Eld. Hughes, when but a child deprived of father and mother, and cast upon the world,

which is cold enough at best, found, when all others pushed him aside, an abiding place beneath the hospitable roof of Mr. Engle, which he was received, cared for and encouraged on in the straight pathway which leads to renown and glory. It was fitting that this man should perform the sacred duty and well and nobly did he perform it. The large church was crowded with mourners, and when the procession left the house, it is said that it extended for one mile in length. The funeral was attended by our worthy fellow townsman, W.B. Conant.

Thus has passed away another of Menard County's best and noblest citizens. He is mourned by all who knew him, and his friends are counted by thousands.

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