

Henry Leavitt Ellsworth

Washington, District of Columbia

Personal

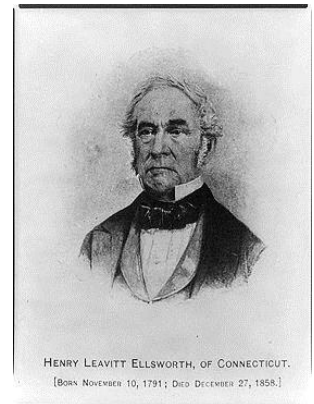
- Born 1791 in Windsor, Connecticut
- Son of Oliver Ellsworth, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Wife Nancy Allen Goodrich, Three Children
- Wife Marietta Mariana Bartlett
- Wife Catherine Smith

Educational

- Graduate of Yale University
- Attended Tapping Reeve's Litchfield Law School
- Read Law with Judge Gould in Litchfield, Connecticut

Professional

- Lawyer
- Author
 - A Tour to New Connecticut in 1811
 - Washington Irving on the Prairie
- Commissioner to the Indians
- Negotiated Agreement with Pawnee one year after the Tour
- First Commissioner of the United States Patent Office
 - Technology Adapter and Promoter
- Agent for purchase and settlement of public land
- President of Aetna Insurance
- Founder of the United States Department of Agriculture



Civic

- Mayor of Hartford, Connecticut
- Solid Citizen, Moral and Law Abiding
- Benefactor of Yale University, nearly \$1,000,000.00

Historical

- Director Patents, Telegraph, Colt Revolver
- Father Department of Agriculture
- Yale University Benefactor
- Henry Leavitt Ellsworth Papers at Yale's Sterling Library
- Daughter, Anna G. Ellsworth Smith, inaugural telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?"
- Died 1858 in Fair Haven, Connecticut

What other Tourists said about Henry Leavitt Ellsworth:

. . . innate simplicity and benevolence of heart. . . days . . . passed in the bosom of his family and the society of deacons . . . on the banks of the Connecticut; when suddenly he had been called to mount his steed, shoulder his rifle, and mingle among stark hunters, backwoodsmen, and naked savages, on the trackless wilds of the Far West. W1 12 Washington Irving

. . . Lord Commissioner is one of those good old philanthropists, one of those peaceful and calm Yankee republicans who, devoted to his cause like a prophet of old, imagined that peace would follow immediately and the Indians would shake hands . . . Astride a peculiar kind of horse, wearing an otter-skin hat, he left Fort Gibson full of apostolic ideas and with a gentle, sleepy look about him . . . CP 46 47
Count Pourtalés

What Ellsworth said --- Very Precise, Everyone else worried about making it across the Arkansas:

I have an exact inventory of the baggage that was put in before I was placed upon the top of it, by the arms of Tonish & Billett---3 full saddle bags --- 4 guns --- Holsters & pistols; powder horns & shot pouches --- ½ a bushel of corn, besides all the fresh provisions of our mess --- 8 blanketts --- 3 buck skin dresses --- 4 sirsingles --- axe, frying pan tin kettle, coffee pot & eating bowls ropes & 2 great coats -- on the top of these with several other small articles I was placed, with my double barreled gun in my hands loaded for a salute if circumstances should be favorable. HLE 42

Very Judgmental

About himself – no:

. . . my pistol was . . . so heavy, as to make my holster side unbalanced & so I took a very large ear of corn to preserve the balance . . . HLE 8

About the young count who ran after all the girls:

Albert Alexandre de Pourtalés *M Pourteles, who is extremely car(e)less lost his boots . . . he . . . depended upon moccasins to wear through the journey . . . I rejoiced that he was not considered as M Ellsworth('s) party—His passions led him to great extremes—His conduct at the Union mission was*

censureable in the highest degree . . . he attempted to seduce an amiable young indian girl at that school—the mother had been won by presents, and went to talk with Mrs. Vail, the wife of the superintendant about the matter, & see whether the girl might go—whatpresumption! Indignation and refusal, ought to have covered the Swiss gentleman (with?) shame—There were other instances of misconduct more gross, but I will not pollute my pages with a recital of them— . . . HLE 12 14

About the young count's mentor/keeper/traveling companion Charles Joseph Latrobe

When I first became acquainted with him I knew him only as an English gentleman, nephew to the architect, travelling . . . in company with M Irving & his Swiss friend . . . he is a gentleman deserving the highest estimation – He is well informed, judicious, and moral in his example, and “draws a clear well defined line between virtue & vice” -- and though he does not attempt absolutely to restrain his ward, yet he is very observing as to his conduct, and prudently advises, when he supposes his influence can produce any effect . . . HLE 69*

*The architect was Benjamin Latrobe who worked for James and Dolley Madison.