

# Henry W. Fulton

Henry W. Fulton was born November 5, 1838, in Derry township, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and was a son of Robert and Hannah (Bovard) Fulton, the former a representative of one of the oldest and largest families in the western part of the Keystone State. The boy grew up on the ancestral farm, and in youth became prominent in church work, and was a member of the choir in old Salem church. He attended a select school in New Derry for several terms, under the supervision of Professor J. I. McCormick. He then taught school for three winters. In 1859 he became a student in Elders Ridge Academy. In 1861 he dropped his studies and enlisted on the first call for three months' troops, reenlisting for three years, September 16, 1861, in Company K, 53rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, under command of Colonel John R. Brooks, afterwards major general in the regular army, and chief of staff of the United States Army.

Soon after his enlistment in the 53rd Regiment he was selected for the signal service, and January 3, 1862, he was detached from the regiment and ordered to report at Washington, and soon after was appointed a sergeant in the Signal Corps. His intelligence, high moral character and reliability fitted him well for this especially hazardous branch of the army, in which he served for the remainder of his term of enlistment. His record was an enviable one and is found fully in the United States archives. He frequently received honorable and special mention—seven times in all—from his superior officers, the chief signal officer reporting, "Sergeant H. W. Fulton as worthy of especial mention for being attentive, faithful and intelligent, doing his duty nobly and sending messages rapidly and correctly." On one occasion a report from Sergeant H. W. Fulton determined a movement of the whole Army of the Potomac. His observations were usually made from a tall tree, where he was a target for the sharp shooters of the army. Their bullets often barked the tree close to his body, while he used "the little flag that talked to the commanders of the Union forces." Dr. Fulton was a member of McPherson Post, No. 117, G. A. R., and was a close student of war literature, leaving a large number of personal war records in the possession of his wife.

Upon his discharge from the army he entered the service of the Western Union Telegraph Company as cashier and receiver at its Pittsburgh office, which position he held for some years. During this time he pursued the study of medicine, and in 1872 he graduated from Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, cum laude, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and at once opened his office for practice in East Liberty, where for a period of thirty-five years he labored continuously, building up a large and lucrative practice among all classes of people, to whom he especially endeared himself as a skillful and faithful Christian physician. By his professional brethren Dr. Fulton was highly esteemed, being frequently consulted in the most difficult cases, by reason of his reputation for sound judgment combined with deep and comprehensive medical knowledge. With unusual professional experience he united a charm of manner, a buoyant optimism and a capacity for enduring friendship that cause his memory to be still cherished in many hearts. He was earnestly devoted to his profession and took a deep interest in the Homoeopathic Hospital of Pittsburgh, with which he was closely identified for many years. He was also very highly respected by other schools of medicine.

In all that concerned the welfare of Pittsburgh, Dr. Fulton's interest was deep and sincere and wherever substantial aid would further public progress, it was freely given. Widely but unostentatiously charitable, no good work done in the name of philanthropy or religion appealed to him in vain. In politics he was a Republican, and as a vigilant and attentive observer of men and measures, holding sound opinions and liberal views, his ideas carried weight among those with whom he discussed public problems. He affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, belonged to numerous clubs and associations and was, from 1879 to the close of his life, a ruling elder in the East Liberty Presbyterian Church. He was also a director of the Western Theological Seminary. Not long before his death Dr. Fulton succeeded to the office of president of the Elders Ridge Alumni Association.

A highly intellectual man, of quick perceptions and sharp discriminations, Dr. Fulton looked the scholar. His high forehead bore the stamp of intense thought and his keen eyes—the eyes of a close observer— shot through his spectacles glances the searching quality of which was tempered with the glint of humor. His patrician features were accentuated by closely-cropped moustache and beard and his whole aspect indicated alike the theorist and the executant. He was a man of noble impulses and remarkable force of character.

Dr. Fulton married, December 22, 1864, Jennie B., daughter of James and Ruth Ann Nichols, of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and his home life was one of rare beauty and serenity. Mrs. Fulton is one of those rare women who combine with perfect womanliness and domesticity an unerring judgment, traits of the greatest value to her husband, to whom she was not alone a charming companion but a trusted confidante. She was in all respects a truly ideal helpmate to Dr. Fulton, a man to whom the ties of home and family were sacred—the objects of his constant and most loyal devotion. Mrs. Fulton has been a potent factor in Pittsburgh society and is very active in church and charitable work.

On June 23, 1907, Dr. Fulton died, "full of years and of honors." As the oldest and most widely known physician of the East End, all classes of the community deeply and sincerely mourned him. Honorable in every relation of life and of the highest professional reputation, he was a true Christian gentleman. He was preeminently the "Beloved Physician," and in ministering to the needs of the body he never missed an opportunity to minister to the needs of the soul, never forgetting his duty to his divine Master, and all classes of people have testified to his genuine goodness and loveliness of character. Dr. Fulton was very deeply interested in the cause of foreign missions and gave largely of his means to its support.

To comparatively few men has it been given to serve their day and generation as Dr. Henry W. Fulton was privileged to do. In his early manhood he defended on the battlefield the integrity of the Union, and his later years were devoted to the advancement of science and the relief of suffering humanity. Soldier—scholar—physician— these few words contain both his record and his eulogy.