
You Are Invited to Join

the Restoration Team of the
Dr. Richard Eells House
on the Underground Railroad and
Help Restore This Historic Site at
415 Jersey St., Quincy, Illinois

(Return this section and your check)

Annual Team Member (Circle one)

Restoration Bricklayer	\$25.00
Restoration Stonemason	\$50.00
Restoration Woodworker	\$100.00
Restoration Contractor	\$250.00+

Send checks to:
"Friends of the Dr. Richard Eells House"
428 Maine St. #270
Quincy, IL 62301

A not-for-profit,
tax-exempt corporation
under Sec. 501(c)3 of the
Internal Revenue Code.

Dr. Richard Eells Quincy Abolitionist

When Dr. Richard Eells died on October 4, 1846, at the age of 48, "on a trip back East," he closed the chapters of a life with more than its share of triumphs and tragedies. His death occurred twenty years to the day after he married Jane Bestor, daughter of his instructor in medicine, in Simsbury, Connecticut. They were the parents of two daughters who died by the year 1834. Dr. and Mrs. Eells and their two young daughters are buried in the Hop Meadow Cemetery in Simsbury.

After locating in Quincy in 1833 Eells established his medical practice and by 1835 was in partnership with Dr. Nichols in a building advertised as "four doors east of the Quincy House" on Maine Street. He taught medical classes at Dr. Nelson's famous Mission Institute. He became a trustee of the Congregational Church and a leading abolitionist of his day. He held important offices in local and state anti-slavery groups, and is credited with helping several hundred slaves escape through the Underground Railroad.

On the fateful night of August 21, 1842, a slave named Charley knocked at his door, dripping wet from his swim across the Mississippi. Eells rushed him and some dry clothes into his buggy and headed for the Mission Institute, a "safe house." Near 24th and Maine they were spotted by the slave owner's posse and Charley made a run for it, but was caught the next day.