

In March 1843, the Missouri group gathered in Palmyra on the 8th, and rode across the Mississippi River ice where they set fire to the chapel at the Mission Institute, known as the Theopolis Branch (derisively labeled "Eells Institute"). In April of 1843, Dr. Eells stood trial in Adams County. His attorneys were George C. Dixon and James Collins and he was found guilty by Stephen A. Douglas and fined four hundred dollars.<sup>14</sup> Eells case was appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court on a Writ of Error which confirmed the Circuit Courts judgement against Dr. Eells (not a unanimous decision) in February of 1844.<sup>15</sup>

Dr. Eells was elected President of the State Anti-Slavery Society in 1843. In February of 1844, Eells was on the State Central Committee of the Liberty Party and was selected as a choice for the party's presidential candidate and was nominated by the fifth Congressional District to Congress. Dr. Eells continued to press for a hearing before the US Supreme Court. Samuel P. Chase; William Seward; and Thomas Moore were renowned attorneys who represented him.<sup>16</sup> Dr. Eells financed his legal battle by mortgaging his property to Thomas Pope for \$3500 -- his house on Jersey and 109 acres in Marquette County, Illinois; and the sale of two parcels off his lot on Maine for \$1450 in August and September, 1844.<sup>17</sup>

Dr. Eells was nominated for Governor of Illinois at the May 1846 Liberty Party Convention, but once again was not elected. Dr. Richard Eells died on October 4th, 1846 of pneumonia following a bad cold. {Family history states that he was imprisoned and fined \$500.00 by the federal government and that he escaped and was exposed to the cold, took a cold and died suddenly of pneumonia on October 19, 1846.}

Dr. Eells case was finally heard by the US Supreme Court in December of 1853 and his appeal was rejected more that 11 years after his arrest and 7 years after his death.

Dr. Eells is buried in Hop Meadow Cemetery, Simsbury, CT along with his wife, Jane who died in Chicago, IL Feb. 8, 1880 at age 73, and the daughters.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Conover & Gauthier, "Richard Eells, Quincy Abolitionist" Historic Illinois, October 1980 page 9.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, page 9

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, page 11

<sup>17</sup> Land records of Adams County, lot 3 and 6, Block 19.

<sup>18</sup> "Simsbury Cemetery Book" page 27.