



HENRY FORD ASKEW, M.D.
Wilmington, Del.
1805-1876

*Nineteenth President, A. M. A
Cincinnati Session
May 7, 8, 9, 10, 1867*



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "H. F. AskeW".

DR. HENRY FORD ASKEW was the first and only physician elected to the presidency from the State of Delaware. He was a charter member of the Association and distinctly representative of the class of general practitioner, it having been said that at one time he had the largest single practice in Wilmington and the State.

Dr. AskeW was born in Wilmington, Delaware, June 24, 1805 of an old Quaker family. He obtained his medical training at the University of Pennsylvania from which institution he graduated in 1826, and soon afterward began the practice of medicine in his native city.

A contemporary biographer has recorded that while he carried on an unusually large general practice, "he was remarkable at all times for his great charm and cheerfulness of manner."

At the meeting in 1868 in a rather lengthy presidential address he reviewed the first twenty years of Association history calling attention to a membership of about three thousand, of which only one-tenth were present at annual meetings. He expressed himself as not in favor of medical specialties except those pertaining to diseases of the eye and ear, and of the skin. He presented a vigorous exposition of his views on medical ethics and other matters pertaining to the welfare of the medical profession.

Dr. AskeW died in Wilmington March 5, 1876, at the age of seventy-one years.