

= Henry Adams Thompson =

Henry Adams Thompson (March 23 , 1837 ? July 8 , 1920) was an American prohibitionist and professor who was the vice @-@ presidential nominee of the Prohibition Party in 1880 .

Thompson was a native of Pennsylvania , but spent much of his career in Ohio . He became a member of the United Brethren church and taught mathematics at several United Brethren colleges in the Midwest . Thompson served as president of Otterbein University from 1872 to 1886 . Much of his time as college president was devoted to improving the financial standing of the school during the economic depression that followed the Panic of 1873 .

Initially a Republican , he became an early member of the Prohibition Party . His attempt at election to the vice presidency in 1880 , running on a ticket with Neal Dow of Maine , was the party 's best showing to date , but they still placed a distant fourth to the eventual winners , James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur . He ran for office under the Prohibition banner several other times before and after 1880 , all without success .

= = Early life and educational career = =

Henry Thompson was born in Stormstown , Centre County , Pennsylvania on March 23 , 1837 , the son of John Thompson and Lydia Blake Thompson . John Thompson was the manager of an ironworks in Centre County , and later owned a general mercantile business in Stormstown . Lydia Blake was a Quaker from Kennett Square , Pennsylvania , who was disinherited when she married Thompson , a Presbyterian . John Thompson was politically active and served two terms as county sheriff . He was active in anti @-@ slavery and temperance causes , in both of which his son Henry followed him .

Thompson graduated from Jefferson College (now Washington & Jefferson College) in 1858 with a bachelor 's degree , and studied for two years at the Western Theological seminary (now Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) . In 1861 , he was appointed professor of mathematics at Western College (now Leander Clark College) , a United Brethren @-@ affiliated college in Shueyville , Iowa , and taught there for one year . The United Brethren , a pietist church that arose first among Pennsylvania Germans during the Great Awakening , was one of the earliest churches in the United States to embrace abolitionism . By Thompson 's time , they had also joined the fight for the prohibition of alcohol , though most did so from within the Republican Party and did not join the small single @-@ issue Prohibition Party .

The next year , 1862 , Thompson began teaching mathematics and natural science at another United Brethren school , Otterbein University in Westerville , Ohio . That same year , he married Harriet Copeland , an artist who also taught at Otterbein . They had three children : Jessie , Clara , and Louis ; two of the three became medical doctors . In 1867 , Thompson left Otterbein to become superintendent of schools in Troy , Ohio . After four years in that position , he returned to teaching , serving again as a mathematics professor in Westfield College , a United Brethren school in Westfield , Illinois .

In 1872 , Thompson was elected president of Otterbein University , and remained in that position until 1886 . He received a doctorate in divinity from Otterbein the following year . As president , Thompson continued to teach and delivered speeches around the country on school or church business . Thompson took office shortly before the financial Panic of 1873 , with the result that his primary concern as president was keeping the college funded . In this he was successful , although the college had to borrow money to stay afloat until the economy recovered . After the initial debt was incurred , Thompson worked to raise donations to pay it off more quickly . He also worked to attract new professors to teach at Otterbein , improving both the quality of education and the school 's reputation among scholars . Thompson was involved in organizing the General Board of Education of the United Brethren Church , which served as a coordinating body for the schools affiliated with the church .

= = Political career = =

Thompson had identified with the Republican Party since its founding in the 1850s , but in 1874 he left it to join the new Prohibition Party . The Prohibitionists , more of a movement than a party , focused their efforts on banning alcohol . Like Thompson , most party members came from pietist churches , and most were former Republicans . He was the party 's nominee for the federal House of Representatives from Ohio 's 12th district at a special election held that year because of the resignation of Democrat Hugh J. Jewett , as well as for the full term that would follow . Thompson lost both , receiving only a few hundred votes and losing to Democratic candidate William E. Finck . He served as chairman of the Prohibition National Convention in 1876 in Cleveland , but the young party 's nominees fared poorly , winning fewer than 7000 votes nationwide .

In 1880 , the party nominated Thompson for vice president , joining a ticket headed by Neal Dow of Portland , Maine , the author of one of the nation 's first municipal prohibition laws . Only twelve states sent delegates to the convention , and the platform they agreed on was silent on most issues of the day , focusing instead on the evils of alcohol . The Prohibitionists increased their vote total in the election that year , but still received just over 10 @, @ 000 votes out of more than nine million cast . Thompson made another bid for elected office in 1887 , when the Prohibition Party nominated him for Governor of Ohio . He was again unsuccessful , netting less than one percent of the vote and finishing in a distant fifth place behind the winner , Democrat Richard M. Bishop . Thompson 's vote total was also surpassed by the Republican candidate , William H. West , and the candidates of two other minor parties , the Workingman Party and the Greenback Party .

Thompson ran for Congress several more times . In 1900 , he ran in Ohio 's 3rd congressional district as the nominee of the Union Reform Party , which was made up of Prohibition Party members who split from the main party . He received just 0 @. @ 32 % of the vote , and Republican Robert M. Nevin won the election . In 1908 , he ran for the same seat for the re @- @ united Prohibition Party , but won just 0 @. @ 4 % of the vote , losing the election to Democrat James M. Cox . In 1910 , Thompson ran for governor of Ohio . Despite the growing popularity of the idea of prohibition , the Prohibition Party candidate got just 0 @. @ 77 % of the vote as Democrat Judson Harmon carried the state . His final attempt at election came in Indiana 's 4th congressional district , just over the Ohio border . With 2 @. @ 24 % of the vote , it was Thompson 's best performance , but he still fell far short of victory .

= = Later life = =

After retiring as college president in 1886 , Thompson remained active in school , party , and church affairs . He became a director of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society in 1885 and prepared their exhibit at the World 's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 . He wrote several books on church topics , including *Our Bishops : A Sketch of the Origin and Growth of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ* , published in 1889 . In 1901 , he was elected editor of the *United Brethren Review* . He died in Dayton , Ohio on July 8 , 1920 , and was buried at Westerville , Ohio 's Otterbein Cemetery .