

= Samuel Turell Armstrong =

Samuel Turell Armstrong (April 29 , 1784 ? March 26 , 1850) was a U.S. political figure . Born in 1784 in Dorchester , Massachusetts , he was a printer and bookseller in Boston , specializing in religious materials . Among his works were an early stereotype edition of Scott 's Family Bible , which was very popular , and The Panoplist , a religious magazine devoted to missionary interests .

Armstrong began to withdraw from the printing business in 1825 , and focused instead on politics . He was active in Boston politics during the 1820s , twice winning a seat in the Massachusetts General Court (state legislature) . In 1833 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts as a Whig , and served three consecutive annual terms . For most of the last term he was Acting Governor after Governor John Davis resigned to take a seat in the United States Senate . He lost a bid to be elected governor in his own right in 1836 , but was elected Mayor of Boston , a post he held for one year .

= = Printer and bookseller = =

Samuel Armstrong was born on April 29 , 1784 in Dorchester , Massachusetts to John Armstrong and Elizabeth (Williams) Armstrong . His father , a military man , died when he was ten , and his mother died three years later . He was apprenticed to Manning and Loring , bookbinders and printers who were described as " the principal book @-@ printers in the town " of Boston . Following his apprenticeship he opened a print shop with a partner in Boston , but a few years later opened his own business in Charlestown .

In 1807 he was elected as a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts . He was elected as the first sergeant of the Company in 1811 . He also served as the captain of the Warren Phalanx of Charlestown from 1811 to 1814 .

In 1811 he returned the business to Boston , establishing a bookshop on Cornhill . His principal business was in the printing of religious tracts ; his most notable work was in publishing The Panoplist , a religious magazine devoted to missionary matters . Another major success was his printing of the first stereotype edition of Scott 's Family Bible , a highly popular work that sold tens of thousands of copies . He also opened his bookshop for church @-@ related activities , including fundraising for foreign missionary work .

After he moved to Boston Armstrong took on two apprentices , Uriel Crocker and Osmyn Brewster . In 1818 , upon the end of their apprenticeship , Armstrong turned over operation of the printing business to them (which then became known as Crocker & Brewster) and focused his activities on the bookshop . In 1825 , he withdrew from the day @-@ to @-@ day operations of the business , but would retain a financial stake until 1840 . He continued to maintain a personal interest in the business until his death . The business was a significant financial success , and made Armstrong fairly wealthy .

= = Church and politics = =

Armstrong was a member of the Old South Church . He served on its vestry (including as its secretary) , and was chosen deacon in 1829 . When the church was formally incorporated in 1844 Armstrong was named as one of its proprietors . In 1816 Armstrong discovered the original manuscript of the third volume of colonial Governor John Winthrop 's History of New England in the church 's tower ; the volume was presented to the Massachusetts Historical Society . He was also in part responsible for the church 's loss of a perfect specimen of the 17th century Bay Psalm Book , one of five that had been willed to the church by Thomas Prince , an early minister of the congregation . Writer Robert Wallace suggests that Armstrong 's trade of two copies of the book in exchange for offers by the recipients , George Livermore and Edward Crowninshield , to rebind the other copies was naive , and was essentially a scam by Livermore and Crowninshield (both knowledgeable in the rare book trade) to acquire the valuable books for a bargain price .

Armstrong was involved in civic affairs as early as 1812 , when he served in a Boston militia

company during the War of 1812 . He entered state politics as a representative in Massachusetts General Court (state legislature) , serving in that body from 1822 ? 1823 and in 1828 ? 1829 . From 1828 to 1830 he served on Boston 's board of aldermen . In 1833 Armstrong was offered the nomination for lieutenant governor by the state Anti @-@ Masonic Party . Since he refused to subscribe to their view that Freemasonry should be abolished , he rejected the offer . He was , however , elected lieutenant governor on the Whig ticket , serving first under Levi Lincoln , Jr. and then John Davis . Whig newspapers used his working class roots to appeal to members of the Working Men 's Party , a third party founded on labor issues , describing him in the 1834 campaign as " a Mechanic and Workingman " .

When Davis resigned in March 1835 upon his election to the United States Senate , Armstrong served as the Acting Governor until 1836 . In the 1836 campaign Armstrong sought the Whig nomination for governor , but it went instead to Edward Everett in a bid for support from the Anti @-@ Masons . Armstrong ended up running that year without party support , and came in a distant third behind Everett and perennial Democratic candidate Marcus Morton .

In contrast to his defeat at the state level , Armstrong was elected Mayor of Boston in 1836 . The principal act of civic improvement during his one @-@ year administration was the construction of iron fencing around the Boston Common and the widening of the promenade along Boylston Street . Although the contracts for the work had been drawn up by the preceding administration of Theodore Lyman , Armstrong oversaw the work , and also had the task of securing the relocation of remains in the Central Burying Ground that were affected by the work . This he accomplished , despite some resistance from several families , by offering at no cost several new granite tombs to the affected parties .

In 1839 Armstrong was elected to the Massachusetts Senate , where he served a single term . In 1845 he joined the New England Historical and Genealogical Society , in whose affairs he remained involved until his death . He died in 1850 in Boston , and is buried in Cambridge 's Mount Auburn Cemetery . He had married Abigail Walker of Charlestown in 1812 ; they had no children .