

Honorable David Henshaw, Secretary of the Navy
1843-1844

Born in Leicester, Massachusetts, April 2, 1791; died there November 11, 1852. He was apprenticed to a druggist in Boston at the age of sixteen and carried on business on his own account from 1814 until 1829.

He devoted his leisure to study, acquired note as a political writer, published pamphlets and review articles in advocacy of free-trade, and sealously supported the principles of the Democratic party.

He was elected to the state senate in 1826 and to the House of Representatives in 1839, after holding the ~~post~~ of collector of customs at Boston since 1830. He was active in promoting the earlier railroad enterprises in Massachusetts, and was interested in the construction of the Boston and Worcester, the Boston & Albany, and the Boston and Providence railroads.

On July 24, 1843, he was appointed by President Tyler as Secretary of the Navy, but after holding the office several months, he was rejected by the Senate, and ^{was} succeeded by Thomas Gilmer of Virginia, February 15, 1844.

Among his publications were: "Letters on the Internal Improvement and Commerce of the West". (Boston, 1839).

The Destroyer HENSHAW named for him was launched on the 28th of June 1919.