

Sarah Candace Parker

ISSN 0003-4827



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Recommended Citation

"Sarah Candace Parker." *The Annals of Iowa* 4 (1900), 558-559.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol4/iss7/23>

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improving the roads, securing better mail facilities, promoting immigration, encouraging the establishment of a newspaper, etc., etc. Probably the greatest service Mr. Walter Willson ever rendered to Webster City came through the division of Webster county. He was elected to the house of representatives of the State legislature of 1856—the last which assembled in Iowa City. He secured the passage of a law which divided Webster county, and created the new county of Hamilton, with Webster City and Fort Dodge named as the new county seats. Hon. W. W. Hamilton, a senator from Dubuque, who had been chosen president of the senate (lieutenant governors were only provided for in the constitution of 1857), favored Mr. Willson's bill. He was complimented by Mr. Willson by naming the new county Hamilton. Judge W. W. Hamilton was long a leading business man of Dubuque county—prominent in politics—and especially active in railroad extension to the westward. That Hamilton county bears his name was wholly due to the happy and kindly thought and appreciative disposition of Mr. Willson. Walter C. Willson, after some nine years of earnest work at Webster City, removed to Chicago, where he became a member of a prominent business house. But he returned to Webster City where he and his brother still retained large interests in real estate, and in 1868 they once more began their earnest work in promoting the growth of the town and county. Our space will not admit of an enumeration of the various business interests which they undertook alone or in a general way fostered and secured. In 1878 Mr. Walter Willson conceived the idea of building a railroad to the coal mines at Lehigh, Webster county, some 18 or 20 miles distant. (About this time his brother withdrew from the firm and henceforth their interests were separate, though they continued in the same brotherly friendship to the end of their days. Mr. Sumler Willson was thrown from a horse in 1882 and so severely injured that he died.) Several capitalists of Chicago and Wisconsin became interested with Mr. Willson in the construction of his railroad, which was successfully built. It proved a most excellent business enterprise, giving an outlet to vast amounts of coal and employment to a large number of men. Mr. Willson had been the active manager of the road since it was opened, and almost daily went out to Lehigh, keeping the closest watch of everything that transpired along the line. It was while thus engaged, on Thursday, August 16, that a car tipped over and pinned him to the ground. His injuries were so severe that he expired three hours afterwards. He was a man of rare business ability. No obstacle nor any amount of opposition could dampen his ardor. He had thus given forty-six years of earnest and faithful work to the development and growth of the business interests of his town and the surrounding country, all of which was crowned with a large degree of success. He was ever a friend to the laboring men whose respect was manifested by the great number who attended his funeral, especially from the coal regions, where he had been many years their employer. His funeral was the largest ever held in Hamilton county. He will be long remembered for his earnest labors as a successful pioneer legislator and far-seeing business man.

MRS. SARAH CANDAOG (PEARSE) PARKER, a descendant of the Welsh Pearses, the Scotch McLellans, the English Wilders, and the American Pecks and Monroes, the wife of Prof. L. F. Parker, of Grinnell, was born seventy-two years ago in Vermont and died at her home in Grinnell, June 5, 1900. In a model Puritan family she early acquired a love of knowledge, an optimistic character and an ambition to be useful. She graduated at Oberlin in 1851 under such teachers as Presidents Asa Mahan, Charles G. Finney and James H. Fairchild, and as Professors John Morgan, Timothy Hudson and James Monroe, a relative, and with such college friends as the widely known Lucy Stone, Antoinette L. Brown, Ferdinand

V. Hayden, the scientist, and Jacob Dolson Cox, the Union General, Governor of Ohio, and Grant's Secretary of the Interior. Much of her life was devoted to teaching. Before her graduation she taught two years in Cincinnati and was urged to accept the best place in the schools ever offered to a woman. After that time she taught in Willoughby Female Seminary in Ohio, and after her marriage she often taught some of her husband's classes or was in the same faculty with him. Of her teaching her eight years of continuous work in Iowa College (during seven of which she was the first lady principal) were the most conspicuous. Her hours in the classroom were a delight to teacher and to pupils. There literary subjects were mastered, and lifelong friendships were formed, for she took her pupils, like her children, into her heart, and often, when sick or despondent, into her own home under her personal care. During her forty-four years in Grinnell and Iowa City she was a leader in organizing and in maintaining literary, charitable and religious associations of which the Ladies' Education Society of Iowa College is specially noteworthy for its usefulness and prosperity. The secretaryship of the Iowa Branch of the W. B. M. I. absorbed much of her time and gave her rare pleasure during the last twenty-four years of her life. Her love of nature and of art was greatly quickened by her tours in Europe and in the United States. Her poetic nature revealed itself in her reading, her conversation, her correspondence, her descriptive articles, in occasional poems from her pen, and in the ease with which choice fragments of poetry became fixed in her memory. A fuller notice of her life in a booklet is anticipated.

HENRY B. HENDERSHOTT was born in the State of Ohio, in 1816; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, August 10, 1900. He came to Burlington, Iowa, in 1837, where he studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1841, residing a while at Mt. Pleasant, and afterwards at Fairfield. He finally settled at Ottumwa, which became his permanent home. He was one of the best known among the early settlers of this State, and held several important public offices. He was appointed by Judge Charles Mason, Clerk of the District Court of Wapello county in 1844. While acting in this capacity he organized the county. In 1845 the Governor appointed him to the office of District Prosecutor for the Seventh District of Iowa. He was at one time Colonel of the 2d Regiment, 1st Brigade, 4th Division of the Iowa Militia. He also had charge of some important surveys of government lands. With Joseph G. Brown he acted as commissioner to settle the vexed question of the Missouri boundary. He served until the matter in dispute was considered settled. Years afterwards it was reopened and a settlement was only reached in quite recent times. Judge Hendershott represented Wapello, Monroe and Lucas counties in the State senate from 1850 to 1854, where he was chairman of the judiciary committee. In 1856 he was elected judge of the District Court of the Third Judicial District, in which position he won very distinguished credit. During all these years he had filled many other positions in the State, county and city, and was a man in whom the public reposed the largest confidence. As a speaker he was fluent, forcible and convincing, and an able supporter of education, morality and sobriety, enjoying the fullest confidence of all who knew him. A biographical sketch of Judge Hendershott, from the pen of Hon. E. H. Stiles, now of Kansas City, but many years ago reporter of the Supreme Court of Iowa, with his portrait, appeared in this magazine, Vol. 3, No. 8, pp. 624-630.

THOMAS OFFICER was born near Little Washington, Washington county, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1822; he died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 12, 1900. He was a graduate of Washington-Jefferson College in 1839, and completed his education for the ministry at Princeton Theological

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