

Samuel B. Downing

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had spent some time in the Winnipeg country, and further north, in studying the natural history of those remote regions. He had latterly gone to Arizona in a vain pursuit of health. The death of this brilliant young Iowan was the occasion of sincere regret wherever he had become known.

SAMUEL B. DOWNING was born in Venango county, Pa., Feb. 4, 1825; he died near Drakesville, Iowa, Oct. 27, 1903. Mr. Downing came to Davis county in 1840, being one of the earliest settlers. He served two years in the Mexican war. He was one of the early abolitionists and voted for John C. Fremont in 1856. During the civil war he served as captain. He was a member of the house in the 18th and 19th General Assemblies, having been elected on the greenback ticket. In 1889 he was a candidate for governor on the union labor ticket. He was an ordained minister in the Christian church and preached many years for that denomination.

JOSEPH WORK was born in Clarke county, Indiana, Aug. 28, 1824; he died in Almena, Kansas, Sept. 24, 1903. Mr. Work first came to Iowa with his father in 1842, and was present at Agency City when the treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians was made in October, 1842. He returned to Indiana for a time, but in 1844 removed to Iowa, locating on a farm near Birmingham, Van Buren county. He remained in the State until 1894 when he removed to Kansas, where he resided until his death. Mr. Work was elected from Van Buren county to the 15th G. A., on what was then known as the Granger ticket.

LEMUEL PARKHURST was born in Ontario county, N. Y., Feb. 27, 1818; he died in Davenport, Iowa, Dec. 11, 1903. He came to the territory of Iowa in 1836 and at the time of his death was one of the best known men in the eastern part of the State. For thirty years he was engaged on the Mississippi river packets, serving as clerk and later as captain. In 1841 Mr. Parkhurst was elected assistant clerk of the House, in the 4th territorial legislature, the first to meet in Iowa City. He was for years deputy treasurer of Scott county and served on the Davenport city council.

PHINEAS F. STURGIS was born in Fayette county, Pa., December 7, 1830; he died at West Union, Iowa, February 8, 1903. He was a pioneer, settling in West Union in 1851, where he was a successful merchant. He served in the Iowa house of representatives in the session of 1864. As a member of the board of trustees of the College for the Blind, at Vinton, he rendered the State an excellent service, running through many years. He was an active republican politician and a close friend of Gov. William Larrabee, U. S. Senator James F. Wilson, and other leaders of the time.

FREDERICK HANCOCK was born in Luzerne county, Pa., Dec. 13, 1814; he died at Bentonsport, Iowa, Oct. 4, 1903. He came to Van Buren county in 1838 and took up a claim near the present town of Bentonsport. He continued to live near that place for the rest of his life. During the civil war he served as quartermaster, with rank of captain. Capt. Hancock was very prominent in politics at an early day. He was a member of the 7th and 8th territorial assemblies and was one of the last two surviving members who served in the territorial legislatures of Iowa.

GEORGE W. WAGNER was born in Washington township, Johnson county, Iowa, May 24, 1859; he died in Iowa City, Dec. 17, 1903. Mr. Wagner was one of the early citizens of the county, his father having settled there in 1846. He purchased a farm in 1879, which under his management became one of the finest in the county. He was a member of the House of Representatives in the 22d G. A., and as such did much for the interests of the State University.

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