

Washington Matthews

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August, 1848. The city was then but a small village, a trading and army post. He very soon decided to make Des Moines his future home. At first he was connected with a land office, buying and selling real estate. A party had attempted to start a newspaper here but had given it up and Mr. Granger entered into that business, calling the paper *The Iowa Star*. The first number was dated July 26, 1849. It was thoroughly democratic, Mr. Granger declaring his firm adhesion to that party. He remained a democrat to the end of his days. He published *The Star* until February 20, 1850, when he was succeeded by Curtis Bates and Luther D. Johnson. After his newspaper work, Mr. Granger was admitted to the bar, and for some years practiced law in Des Moines. At one time he sat upon the bench, and was once elected Mayor of Sevastopol, which was a separate organization, and later on of Des Moines. He built his home on the bluff across the valley southeast of the Iowa capitol, and resided there the remainder of his life. He retired many years ago from active business in the city and gave his attention to his farm. He was a man of much versatility of talent, possessing the finest social qualities—a man of many friends. His death occurred from old age, and he had been active until a short time preceding it. His funeral, which was largely attended, was taken in charge by the Octogenarian Society of Des Moines, of which he had been the first and only president. Rev. A. L. Frisbie was the officiating clergyman, and he paid a high tribute to the characteristics of the deceased. He was followed in generous appreciation by Father J. F. Nugent, who was a warm friend of Mr. Granger. The burial took place at Elm Grove cemetery, three miles southwest of his residence, a spot he had long before selected to be his burial place. The Historical Department some years ago secured from the widow of Curtis Bates a file of *The Iowa Star*, which included several years of that weekly. It was a well edited paper from the start and contains much valuable historical material.

WASHINGTON MATTHEWS was born at Killiney, near Dublin, Ireland, July 17, 1843; he died at his home in Washington, D. C., May 2, 1905. His father was a well-known physician of Dubuque, whither Washington came with the family prior to 1860. The son was educated in the common schools and also graduated from the medical department of the State University of Iowa in 1864. That institution conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL. D. He was appointed an assistant surgeon in the U. S. Army, serving from 1864 to 1889, when he was retired on account of disability contracted in the line of duty. He had attained the grades of Captain and Major in the regular army. He was on duty in the Army Medical Museum at Washington from 1884 to 1890. He became quite noted from his successful investigations in the ethnology and philology of the Navajo Indians and other tribes. He was also a member of several learned societies, and the author of many publications relating to the Indians. His bibliography includes several elaborate volumes, many pamphlets and monographs. One of his most important works was "The Mountain Chant: a Navajo Ceremony", published in 1887. In 1897 he published a work on the "Navajo Legends". He also wrote "The Prayer of the Navajo Shaman"; "The Gentile System of the Navajo Indians"; "The Catlin Collection of Indian Paintings" and "The Night Chant, a Navajo Ceremony". He had resided many years at 1262 New Hampshire Avenue, Washington, D. C., where he led a very retired life. He retained an interest in Iowa to the end of his days, sending his many publications to the Historical Department and other institutions. His works promise to live long in the annals of American science.

JAMES D. SPRINGER died in Chicago, Feb. 17, 1905, at the age of sixty years. His parents resided at Iowa City during the early fifties, where the

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