

Mindret Wemple

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lumber and coal business. He served in the civil war with Company B, 31st Iowa infantry, and was promoted to first lieutenant. Mr. Townsend occupied various positions of honor and trust. He was a member of the Board of County Supervisors; member of the City Council; Mayor of Cedar Falls; member of the Board of Commissioners for the erection of the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument at Des Moines, and trustee of the Iowa State Normal School. He was elected to the 22d and 23d General Assemblies. A memoir of this distinguished gentleman may be found in the proceedings of the Pioneer Law Makers Association of Iowa for 1900.

ISAAC PEARL TETER was born in Lewis county, West Va., in 1829; he died at New Sharon, Iowa, March 6, 1900. He came to Iowa about the year 1852 and was ordained as a Methodist Episcopal clergyman, by Bishop Matthew Simpson, in 1855. His early appointments were at Troy, Montrose, Winchester, Ft. Madison, Drakeville, Albia, East Des Moines and Sigourney. While at the latter place, in 1861, he was elected to the State senate, in which body he became active and prominent, especially distinguished by his efforts to secure temperance legislation. In 1863 he was commissioned as chaplain of the 7th Iowa infantry and went to the front. Resigning in 1864, he was appointed post chaplain to the military hospitals at Keokuk, where he remained until the close of the war. He was a popular preacher, able and eloquent, exerting a good degree of influence wherever he resided. He had long been one of the most widely known Methodist Episcopal clergymen in the State.

JOSEPH BRIDGMAN was born in Belchertown, Mass., Oct. 13, 1813; he died at Muscatine, Iowa, Feb. 22, 1900. He came west at the age of twenty-four years, stopping a while at Muscatine, but locating at Burlington (now Iowa) Wis., where he remained until 1844. He then returned to Muscatine, where he thenceforward resided. He was one of the pioneer merchants of that town, continuing in business until 1880. He was some time associated with Chester Weed, one of the founders of the old State Bank of Iowa. Mr. Bridgman had been prominent in several kinds of business, including the agency of the old Aetna Insurance Company, active in educational work, and enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest Odd Fellow in Iowa. He was the first Grand Treasurer of the order and afterwards representative to the Grand Lodge of the United States. He had a wide acquaintance in the eastern part of the State, and had won an enviable reputation wherever he was known.

MRS. J. G. LAUMAN, widow of the late Gen. Jacob G. Lauman of Burlington, Iowa, died in Chicago, Feb. 4, 1900. Louisa Douglas Viele was born in Valley Falls, N. Y., in 1835, both parents being members of old New York families. After the death of her father she removed with her mother to Davenport, Iowa. In 1854 she was married to Mr. Jacob G. Lauman of Burlington, and at once became a leader in the social circles of that city. Gen. Lauman died in 1867 from the effects of a wound received at the battle of Belmont, and Mrs. Lauman after residing some years in New York, and after extended travel, settled in Chicago where her sons were established in business.

MINDRET WEMPLE was born in Monroe county, N. Y., Sept. 15, 1830; he died in Garden Grove, Iowa, Feb. 6, 1900. He received a medical education at the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, and Jefferson College, Philadelphia, and practiced his profession first in the state of Kentucky and afterwards at Pulaski, Illinois. When the civil war broke out he entered the military service as a captain of the 4th Illinois cavalry. He was promoted to the rank of major and was later brevetted colonel. In 1893 he removed

to Decatur county, Iowa. He was a member of the 27th General Assembly.

MRS. ANNIE TURNER WITTENMYER, illustrious for her care of sick and wounded Iowa soldiers during the civil war, was born at Sandy Springs, Adams county, Ohio, Aug. 26, 1827. She died at her home at Sanatoga, Pa., Feb. 2, 1900. (For a biographical sketch and portrait of this famous woman, see ANNALS OF IOWA, 3d ser. v. 4, pp. 277-288).

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

FRAGMENTS OF THE DEBATES OF THE IOWA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS OF 1844 AND 1846, ALONG WITH PRESS COMMENTS AND OTHER MATERIALS OF THE CONSTITUTIONS OF 1844 AND 1846. Compiled and edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh, A. M., Ph. D., Professor of Government and Administration in the University of Iowa. Published by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, 1900.

The title-page of this book fully explains its scope and purpose. Up to its publication it was possible for a reader or student to learn but little about the Iowa Constitutional Conventions of 1844 and '46. It is also a startling fact that the contents of this important volume of over 400 octavo pages, were only to be found in the files of three territorial newspapers, which an accidental fire might have destroyed. No duplicates are in existence. Only a very few copies—we only know the whereabouts of not to exceed half-a-dozen—of the journals of those conventions have come down to this time, and it is well known that the official journals are very meager and unsatisfactory. The three papers referred to—*The Iowa Standard* and *Bloomington Herald*, whig—and *The Iowa Capital Reporter*, democratic—in their weekly issues each presented a brief report of the proceedings of those bodies, with some of the speeches of the members, and their own views of the various provisions which it was sought to embody in the fundamental law. It was a bright and sensible thought of Prof. Shambaugh to gather from these dusty old files everything which contained the proceedings of the two conventions or in any manner pertained to their action. The Iowa Historical Society never did a wiser thing than thus to print in one compact and beautiful volume all of this most precious historical material. It gives "a future life" to the actors in the conventions, who were in great danger of being utterly forgotten. No book has hitherto been published in our State of higher importance historically, and we welcome it as such. There are a few people who can see no reason for preserving files of the newspapers for future reference. But the great results which Prof. Shambaugh has accomplished through his search through these old *Standards* and *Heralds* and *Reporters* is a complete answer to all such cavillers.

THE MAKING OF IOWA. By Henry Sabin, LL. D., Ex-State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Iowa, and Edwin L. Sabin. Chicago: A. Flanagan, publisher.

Here is a neat and beautifully illustrated volume of 282 pages, devoted to a history of "The Making of Iowa." It is mainly intended for "the children in our schools," but it may be read with profit by people of any age. In thirty-four short chapters it presents a series of lively pictures of the origin and development of our State from the earliest days until the close of the great civil war. As an epitome of Iowa history it covers the ground very completely, and will suffice to meet the demand until a more elaborate work appears. We trust that it may have a large sale, not alone as an encouragement to its industrious and painstaking authors, but upon its intrinsic merits. It is as interesting as the brightest novel, and he who dips into it will be very apt to read it from the first page to the last, and in the meantime he will learn many things about our magnificent State that he never knew before.

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