

Annie Turner Wittenmyer

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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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