

General Ed Wright

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was actively engaged in the practice of law for more than half a century, and a lawyer of unusual ability. It is stated that he was employed as counsel in no less than forty-five murder trials, winning all but two of them. He found time to write a work on rhetoric which became a school text book, and did a large amount of literary work at various times. Daniel F. Miller was among the last of our pioneer statesmen whose residence and services dated back to early territorial days. The work of a long and useful life was given to the up-building of the State which he loved so well. He was in public life with Webster, Clay, Calhoun and Benton, with Jones and Dodge of our own State, and lived in Iowa from the administration of its first territorial Governor, Robert Lucas, up to that of the present Governor, Frank D. Jackson. During his life within its borders Iowa grew from a frontier wilderness to one of the most progressive, productive, and influential members of the Union, and it owes not a little of its wonderful development to the untiring labor, wisdom, and influence for good of such honored pioneers as Daniel F. Miller and his co-workers.

GENERAL ED WRIGHT died in Des Moines, Dec. 6th. He was born near Salem, Ohio, June 27, 1827. He received a common school education, and in 1848 married Miss Martha Thompson. The young couple moved to Cedar County, Iowa, in 1852, making their home in a Quaker settlement of John Brown fame, not far from Springdale. When a convention was called by the anti-slavery people of the State to organize a new party in 1856, Ed Wright was one of the delegates from Cedar county. That convention put the first Republican ticket in the field, and chose delegates to the first National Republican Convention, which nominated Fremont for President. The next fall he was elected representative from Cedar County in the last Legislature which met in Iowa City. He was re-elected in 1857, and served in the first Legislature which convened in Des Moines. When the war of the rebellion broke out, he assisted in organizing the 24th regiment, of which he was commissioned Major. He made an excellent officer, taking part in some of the bloodiest battles around Vicksburg. He was also in General Banks' disastrous Red River Expedition, and with Sheridan in his brilliant campaign through the Shenandoah Valley. He was several times wounded in battle, and was promoted successively to Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, and brevet Brigadier General. At the close of the war he returned to his Cedar county farm, and at the next election was again sent to the Legislature, and chosen speaker of the House. In 1866 he was elected Secretary of State, twice re-elected, serving six years with great efficiency. In 1873, when work was begun on the new State House, he was chosen secretary of the commissioners charged with its construction, and soon after became assistant superintendent of the work. He proved to be the right man for the place, carefully guarding the interests of the State in all the details for the erection of the new capitol. After its completion he was made custodian of the building, holding that position until 1890. No public official served the State with more fidelity than General Wright. His work was done intelligently and with a scrupulous care for the public interest. He won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Few men in public life have made so many friends, or so few enemies.

Mrs. CAROLINE V. CLARKE, an old-time resident of Iowa City, died at her home in Washington, August 22nd. She was the wife of Hon. William Penn Clarke, a prominent pioneer of Iowa, one of the framers of the present constitution of our State, and many years reporter of the Supreme Court.

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