

Melvina J. Shaffer

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MRS. SARA B. MAXWELL was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, February 12, 1837; she died in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, October 12, 1904. In 1863 she removed with her husband, William Maxwell, to Panora, Iowa. He served for two years as clerk of the district court in Guthrie county and was a member of the 14th General Assembly. In 1877 he was murdered with his son in New Mexico where he had gone to establish a ranch. In 1878 Mrs. Maxwell was appointed State Librarian by Governor Gear, to succeed Mrs. Ada North, and served until 1888. She was the author of the "Centennial History of Guthrie County," published in 1876, also of "Social Forms and Usages." She was employed by the Iowa Commission to make an exhibit of books and pamphlets by Iowa authors at the World's Fair, Chicago. In 1897 she was elected librarian of the theological school in Meadville, Pennsylvania, which position she retained until within a short time of her death.

MRS. MELVINA J. SHAFFER was born at Carmichael, Pa., September 6, 1833; she died at Keokuk, Iowa, June 15, 1904. She was educated at Olome Institute, Cannonsburg, Pa., becoming a school teacher in that city. She was united in marriage to Dr. J. M. Shaffer at Elizabeth, Pa., March 18, 1856. In the following month the young couple came to Iowa, settling at Fairfield. In 1876 they removed to Keokuk which was thereafter their home. Mrs. Shaffer was a leading member of the First Unitarian church of Keokuk. Dr. Shaffer became one of the best known citizens of Iowa, as a leading member of the medical profession and a naturalist, as one of the founders of the State Agricultural Society, and a man of affairs. He was ably assisted in these several fields of usefulness by his cultured and devoted wife.

HANNAH LARRABEE WILLIAMS was born in Ledyard, Connecticut, November 23, 1825; she died in Grand Meadow township, Clayton county, Iowa, November 17, 1904. She was the daughter of Capt. Adam Larrabee and a sister of Ex-Governor William Larrabee of this State. She was the wife of Judge Elias H. Williams, who settled in Grand Meadow after a short residence in Garnavillo. *The Cedar Rapids Republican* pays a beautiful tribute to the memory of Mrs. Williams. It says, "She had an intellect as keen as a rapier. . . . For more than fifty years she was part of the life of northeastern Iowa. . . . Her influence will not entirely go out of the hearts and minds of the people who live there."

LE ROY G. PALMER was born in Christian county, Kentucky, November 3, 1821; he died in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, October 19, 1904. He served in the Mexican war as a member of Company B, 4th Illinois Infantry. In 1847 he removed to Iowa and located in Mt. Pleasant, where he began the practice of law, and became one of the ablest members of the bar of southeastern Iowa. He was a member of the State senate during the extra session of the 8th General Assembly, having been elected to fill a vacancy. In 1862 he was elected county judge of Henry county and served one term. At one time he was candidate for Congress on the democratic ticket.

CHARLES I. BARKER was born in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, June 4, 1826; he died in Burlington, Iowa, October 6, 1904. He was a veteran newspaper man, having begun work in a printing office in 1846, at Keene, New Hampshire. He afterwards worked on papers in various states. In 1867 he located in Burlington, and for many years published *The Gazette*. In 1872 he was a delegate from the 1st Iowa district to the convention that nominated Horace Greeley for the presidency. He was at one time candidate for State treasurer, on the democratic ticket, and he was a member of the House in the 25th General Assembly.

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