

Joseph Benson Harris

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Joseph Benson Harris." *The Annals of Iowa* 7 (1905), 156-156.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3203>

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father had been for some time employed as a laborer in a flouring mill owned and operated by Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood. The family removed to Webster City and settled on a farm where James grew up to about the age of fourteen. In December, 1859, he came to Des Moines as a candidate for messenger or page in the State senate. Appealing to Governor Kirkwood on the ground that he wished to earn money for the purpose of attending school, the governor took his case in hand and largely through his influence James was elected. He appeared to be such a studious, excellent boy that he won the hearty friendship of George W. McCrary, a State Senator from Keokuk, who afterwards became a federal judge and Secretary of War. Mr. McCrary took James home with him at the end of the session, and the young man studied law in his office. He was a bright student and became a very successful lawyer. He was also connected with several railroads in the west. He practiced law some years in Ft. Dodge, finally removing to Chicago. His career was a brilliant one. To native ability of a high order, he united great industry, and a genial, kindly nature. He was to a great degree self-educated, and all things considered his success was remarkable.

JOSEPH BENSON HARRIS was born in Belmont county, Ohio, July 14, 1859; he died at Boone, Iowa, April 29, 1905. When he had reached the age of nine years, his mother having become a widow, removed to Chariton, Iowa, with her two sons and a daughter. Five years later he entered the employ of the C., B. & Q. R. R. Co., as a messenger. While so occupied he learned telegraphing, working in several towns along that line. At the age of twenty-one he resigned and entered Simpson College, at Indianola, to prepare himself for the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He spent three years in this institution before entering upon his life work. He was at various times pastor of churches in Lewis, Audubon, Denison, Indianola, Des Moines and Boone. He was for one year President of Simpson College. His services were highly acceptable to his various congregations and to the students. His loss was deeply deplored by his people wherever he had been known. Among those who attended his funeral were Hon. Messrs. L. M. Shaw, Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, and Ex-Senator W. H. Berry, of Indianola, who paid eloquent tributes to his memory.

JAMES J. DOLLIVER was born Nov. 28, 1816, in Saratoga co., N. Y.; he died in Washington, D. C., April 28, 1905. His parents removed to New Jersey when he was a boy. He was educated in the country schools, paying his way by teaching as soon as he was qualified. He migrated to Ohio in 1836. A few years later he was converted, joining the Methodists, and bending all his energies towards becoming a preacher. In 1844 he went to West Virginia, residing in Kingwood and Morgantown. He became a typical circuit rider, traveling thousands of miles on horseback, and participating like others of his class in the usual round of conferences, quarterly meetings and revivals. He was especially distinguished by his war on slavery and intemperance. In 1881 he came to Iowa, settling in Fort Dodge. He spent much time in Washington, D. C., where he was an especial favorite of Presidents Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt. He was the father of Hon. J. P. Dolliver, the present junior U. S. Senator from Iowa.

WILLIAM C. EVANS was born in Delaware county, N. Y., June 24, 1822; he died in West Liberty, Iowa, April 11, 1905. In 1834 he removed with his father's family to Ohio and assisted in making a home in what was then the far west. He afterwards worked for a time in Illinois and the lumber camps of Wisconsin and with a portion of the earnings thus ob-

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