

Henry Anson

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HENRY ANSON, founder of Marshalltown, was born in Canandaigua, N. Y., April 19, 1826; he died at Marshalltown, Iowa, Nov. 29, 1905. In 1836 his parents removed to Erie county, O. In 1851 he started from Trumbull county, O., for Iowa. His progress towards Marshall county was seriously impeded by the heavy rains which made that year a celebrated one in the history of the State. He was so impressed with the beauty of the prairies round about the site now covered by the city of Marshalltown that he determined to locate there and lay out a town. He was a vigorous promoter of any project in which he was thoroughly interested, and in succeeding years was a powerful factor in the upbuilding of the city of Marshalltown. He actively entered into the work of securing additions to the population, bringing in new industries, promoting a saw mill, stores, railroad connections, flouring mills, and in all directions working for the growth of the young city. Among his various projects for increasing the population of Marshalltown was the standing offer of a town lot to any man who would become a settler in the city, and in this way secure a vote, which would increase the chances of Marshalltown in the bitter fight for the county seat. These town lots were given from land owned by Mr. Anson. Few Iowa communities have had more vigorous promoters than Henry Anson. In 1881 he was elected mayor and served one term. Local historians claim for Mr. Anson the distinction of being not only the founder of the town, but the father of the first white child in the community. At the time of his death he was a large property owner, being interested not only in lands and realties which he had owned since the early days of the State, but in brick and coal industries. Among his children is Adrain C. Anson, known in the world of sports as the famous captain of the Chicago base ball clubs in years gone by and now prominent in politics in the city by the lakes.

CYRUS A. MOSIER was born in Mansfield, O., in 1837; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 12, 1905. During his infancy his parents removed to Ft. Leavenworth, where their residence was made unpleasant by the fact that they were abolitionists and opposed to slavery. About the year 1846 they removed to Iowa and settled in Des Moines. Mr. Mosier received his education in the common schools of Des Moines, his attendance being confined to the winter months. He taught one of the early schools in Polk county, alternating his teaching with such manual labor as was in demand at that time. He educated himself in stenography and held the position of official stenographer of the Polk county court continuously for twenty-five years. At the time of his election as court stenographer it is said that he was the only person west of the Mississippi who understood shorthand. In 1867 he was elected county superintendent of schools, but shortly after resigned as the duties of the office interfered with his court reporting. In 1855 he organized the first brass band in the town. It consisted of eleven pieces and was a great feature at the Fourth of July celebrations and other festive occasions. He was long a member of the Old Settlers' Association and its president for several years. He was always a student, an inveterate reader and investigator, and a collector of such curios as eventually find their way into museums. He was highly esteemed by the early settlers of Polk county, many of whom were deeply interested in the man during his last illness. The Des Moines papers paid earnest tributes to his memory.

JOHN C. KENNAN was born in New Haven, Conn., May 6, 1833; he died in Vinton, Iowa, Jan. 2, 1906. He settled on a farm in Cedar township, Benton county, in 1855. This was his residence until 1900, when he removed to Vinton. He enlisted in Company A, 8th Iowa Infantry, which saw much hard service, and was captured at the battle of Shiloh. At the close of the war he returned to his farm. In 1888 he represented his county in the Iowa house of representatives.

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