

Charels F. Clarke

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parents in 1850, to Wisconsin. In 1852 he came to Dubuque, where he learned the printer's trade in the office of *The Tribune* and *The Herald*. In 1858 Mr. Charles Aldrich, then editor of *The Webster City Freeman*, made his acquaintance, and engaged his services upon the latter paper, taking him with him to Webster City, where he remained for two years. In 1859 he entered Cornell College, continuing until 1861, when he enlisted in the Second Iowa Cavalry. His service in the army was severe. In September, 1862, he was discharged at Corinth, Miss., for disability. Returning to Webster City he lived at the home of Mr. Aldrich, where he recuperated. Upon his recovery he entered Upper Iowa University at Fayette. Returning to Webster City he again joined Mr. Aldrich who had returned from the war, and together they began the publication of *The Freeman*, which he ultimately purchased from Mr. Aldrich. He published it until 1867, when it was sold to Mr. J. D. Hunter, at present connected with that paper. On the sale of *The Freeman* Mr. Ballou moved to Boone, where he assisted in the publication of *The Boone Standard*. In 1882 he moved to Nevada and bought *The Aegis*, now the *Representative*, of that city, which he conducted for a year and a half. For ten years he was engaged in mercantile pursuits. In 1880 Mr. Ballou could not resist the newspaper habit, and purchased *The Watchman*, which he continued to edit until a few months prior to his death, when illness made active work impossible.

CHARLES F. CLARKE was born in Shelby county, Ind., August 5, 1846; he died in Red Oak, Iowa, Jan. 19, 1906. In 1856 he removed with his parents to Davis county, Iowa, where they located on a farm. In 1863 he went to Centerville and began clerking in a dry goods store owned by Gen. F. M. Drake, who was then in the army. Two years later he went to Albia and was employed as a clerk in a store owned by J. H. Drake, a brother of Gen. Drake. While there he became interested in the development of coal mines in Monroe county. About this time he began work as a clerk in a bank at Albia, and soon decided to make banking his life work. In 1873 he settled in Red Oak and helped to organize the First National Bank, and was elected its first cashier, a position he retained until his death. The Red Oak Sun states that he was "without doubt the most prominent figure in the history of Red Oak, one who had probably a larger part in her growth and development than any other person ever living here." His death elicited strong expressions of the high esteem in which his character and conduct was held by his neighbors and intimate friends. Justice H. E. Deemer, of Iowa's Supreme Court, at the funeral pronounced a eulogy that was a striking tribute to the beauty, charity and strength of his character, and a testimonial of the deceased's fondness for nature and his love for his fellows. His brother, George W. Clarke, represented Dallas county in the Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first General Assemblies, and was speaker of the house in the Thirtieth and Thirty-first.

GEORGE WILSON was born in Wapello county, Iowa, Oct. 6, 1842; he died in Lexington, Lafayette county, Mo., March 19, 1906. His father, George Wilson, was the first territorial adjutant of the militia of Iowa, a son-in-law of Joseph M. Street, Agent for the Winnebago Indians. (See sketch, ANNALS OF IOWA, v. IV, pp. 563, 576.) In 1862 Mr. Wilson went to Wyoming where for fifteen years he was a general contractor of supplies for the Government and railroad agencies. He served one

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