

## Obed Caswell

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was a most useful citizen, intelligent, public-spirited, exemplary in all the relations of life, charitable, just in his dealings, a man of mark in the communities where he resided, and one whose influence was ever on the side of education, temperance and good morals. The writer knew him for nearly fifty years as an abiding friend, concerning whom he is glad to place these words of appreciation on record. Mr. Hewett was the real founder of the city of Eagle Grove, where his name will long be held in grateful remembrance.

OBED CASWELL was born October 29, 1835, near Watkins, N. Y.; he died at Marshalltown, Iowa, July 7, 1906. While still a boy his parents removed to near Sandusky, Ohio. He was educated at Oberlin and Antioch Colleges. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted in an Ohio regiment with which he served three months. After his discharge he settled in Marshalltown, where he enlisted in Co. D, 5th Iowa Infantry, and was promoted to a second lieutenantcy. Before his discharge Lieut. Caswell became captain of the company. After the war he attended the law class of the State University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and the law school at Albany, N. Y., from the last of which he graduated and was admitted to the Supreme Court of the State of New York. In 1864 he entered into the practice of his profession with J. H. Bradley, who later became circuit judge. Mr. Caswell was afterward associated with J. F. Meeker in the practice of the law which he continued for several years. He went to California on account of his health in 1888. Upon his return he resumed his law practice which he continued until 1896. When the 17th Judicial District was taken from the 11th District, he was appointed by Gov. Drake to fill the vacancy. He was afterwards elected and re-elected for two full terms, and nominated for a third. He became one of the well known Iowa judges. The decision which he made in the case of the soldiers' preference law, which he held to be unconstitutional, as class legislation and against public policy, attracted state-wide attention. It was carried to the Supreme Court, where his decision was reversed.

GEORGE SCHRAMM was born in Plech, Germany, Feb. 12, 1816; he died in his summer cottage at Lake Okoboji, Iowa, July 26, 1906. In 1836 he came to America and settled in Ohio; in 1845 he removed to Farmington, Iowa, remaining there until 1867, when he located in Des Moines, which place had since been his home. "Father" Schramm was a member of the Polk County Octogenarian Society, and its president at the time of his death. He also held membership in the Tippecanoe Club, the Old Settlers' Association and the Pioneer Law Makers' Association. He was a member of the Senate in the 4th and 5th, and a member of the House in the 9th General Assemblies, from Van Buren county. While exceedingly quiet and unobtrusive, Mr. Schramm was much more than an average legislator. His services are recalled as those of a man who was always clear in his convictions, whose habit it was to be found on the right side of questions which challenged public attention. His record is one from which nothing need be expunged. Though living to an advanced age, he was blessed not only with health and strength, but with a most happy temperament, which always made him a pleasant man to meet. His smile of cordial greeting was never absent. There are always men in the ranks of a regiment in active service whom their associates will not forget to the last day of their lives. So it is in a legislative body. After forty years the majority of faces will fade from the brightest memory; but those who were associated with Mr. Schramm in those far-off days have ever borne him in kindly remembrance.

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