

Mark A. Dashiell

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to complete his education. When old enough to enter into business for himself he engaged in farming and stock raising, in which he was eminently successful. In 1850 he removed with his young family to Lee county, Iowa, and settled at Denmark. He resided there eight years, when he took up his residence at Lewis, Cass county, where he was destined to spend his days. His live stock operations were very large, comprising transactions in horses, cattle and swine. In this direction he became one of the foremost operators in Iowa. He was especially active and conspicuous in his efforts to promote the interests of the State Agricultural Society, and no man among its directors early and late has been more often referred to. He may be regarded as one of its most distinguished and influential founders. In enlarging its operations and extending its influence he had few equals and no superior in the State. Mr. Mills was a man of rare energy and earnestness in whatever engaged his attention. In the old days, before the Civil War, his home was a station on the underground railroad, where many fleeing slaves were fed and sheltered and sent on their way toward the land of freedom. In one instance he protected two slave girls for whom a reward of \$1,000 had been offered. Old John Brown shared his hospitality not long before his attack on Harper's Ferry. He was a man who was widely known throughout the State. He held several minor offices in his county, and was chosen a member of the Fourteenth General Assembly, representing the counties of Cass, Adair and Montgomery, then forming the Twentieth Representative District. During this session he served on the committees on Agriculture, Agricultural College, State University, Roads and Highways, and Federal Relations. He joined the Congregational church at the age of 14 and continued in its membership throughout his life.

MARK A. DASHIELL was born at Moore's Hill, Dearborn county, Indiana, October 2, 1826; he died at Indianola, Iowa, July 3, 1907. His father was a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and came to Indiana before it was a State. Dr. Dashiell was one of fifteen children, two brothers surviving him. He graduated from the Indianapolis High school, and later from the local academy in Indianapolis, and finally from the Medical College of Indianapolis. He practiced medicine two years in his native county. Dr. Dashiell resided in Warren county continuously for fifty years, and was a pioneer physician and also a law maker. He had a large ride over the prairies in the course of his practice at a time when prairie fires were seen almost nightly during the warmer portions of the year and when the blizzards raged fiercely during the winter. It is stated that no storms stopped or delayed him in attending to the calls of the pioneer settlers. He was appointed one of the U. S. Board of Pension Examiners in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln, and served continuously throughout his life. He was chosen a Representative in the Twelfth General Assembly, and in 1872 he became a member of the State Senate, where he served four years and was re-elected in 1878 for another term. He was again sent to the Legislature and served in the House of Representatives in the Thirtieth General Assembly. He was one of the stalwart temperance men who recommended the passage of the prohibitory liquor law. He served also for ten years as a trustee of the State Industrial school, which he was largely instrumental in establishing. He was a prominent member of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association, the meetings of which always found him present. He was a useful man generally as a citizen, and especially so as a member of both branches of the State Legislature. He died as he had lived, enjoying the respect and confidence of all who knew him.

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