

Isaac Brandt

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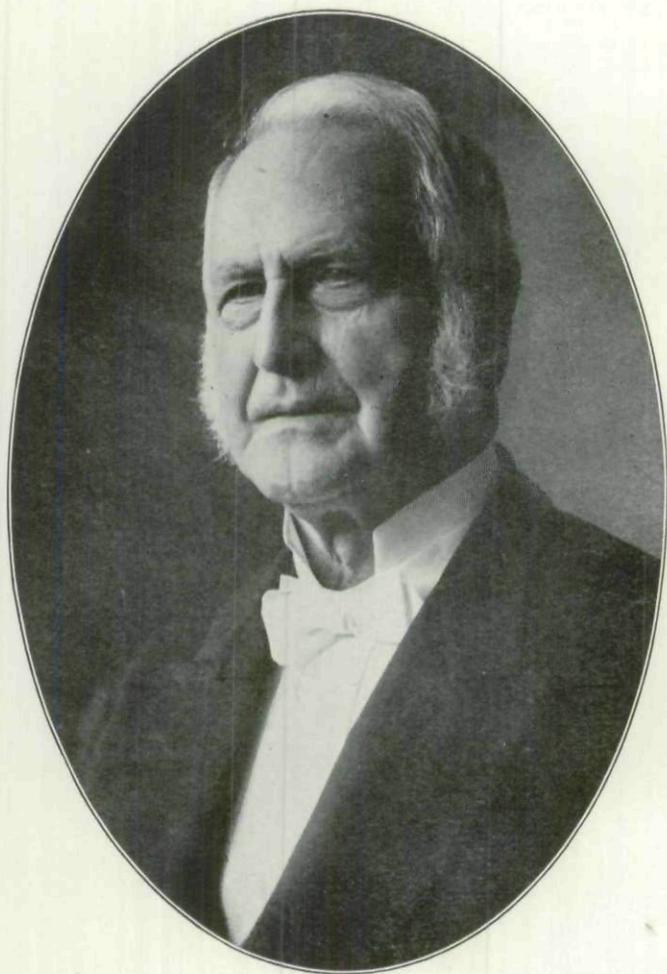
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Isaac Brandt

NOTABLE DEATHS

ISAAC BRANDT was born near Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, April 7, 1827; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, September 12, 1909. He was the twelfth child of David and Martha (Hamilton) Brandt, who had removed from Cumberland county, Pa., to their Ohio home in 1814. He received the meager instruction of the common school of that time. At sixteen he was bound out to learn the shoemaker's trade. For two years he received but his board and one week during harvest and one day in December for butchering, as his own time. Up to the age of twenty-one all of his earnings went to his father, and on the day he arrived at his majority he opened a shoe shop of his own. Upon his marriage to Miss Harriet Wisely, November 1, 1849, he determined to remove to the west, arriving at Auburn, DeKalb county, Indiana, in May, 1850. He followed his trade until 1854, when he was elected sheriff of DeKalb county, in which office he served until a visit to Iowa in January, 1856. He traveled to nearly all the more populous portions of the State, but returned to Des Moines to which place he brought his wife in April, 1858. In October of that year he purchased a half-interest in the dry goods house of E. A. Garrison, and in the fall of 1860 he became the sole owner. In 1866 he sold out and retired from the mercantile business. In January, 1867, he became assistant treasurer of the State of Iowa, serving six years. In the fall of 1873 he was elected to represent Polk county in the House of the Fifteenth General Assembly. He was appointed chairman of the committee on ways and means, and member of the committees on insurance and cities and towns. He was a potent factor in the plan of erecting the state capitol, and his legislative work proved him a leader. He was elected to the city council in 1877 and chosen mayor pro tem. President Arthur appointed him in 1883 on a committee of inspection of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Idaho and Montana, and he served as chairman. He was commissioned in 1890 postmaster of the city of Des Moines, serving little more than four years. Isaac Brandt was a positive force in every movement for the general uplift in every community in which he lived. During his life as a total abstainer, he was effective in all movements for the suppression of intemperance, faithfully attending all meetings and serving as an officer in different societies. He was Grand Chief Templar of the Iowa Society of Good Templars three terms, beginning respectively in 1862, 1870 and 1879. He was an abolitionist whose initial service was to contribute his last penny to a fugitive slave, and he maintained one of the stopping places for fugitive slaves on their way through Iowa from Tabor to Springdale and on. He was a personal friend of John Brown and his associates. He had fine intelligence and a great zeal for beautifying life. In his home and its surroundings, in his school district, and in the entire city he felt the interest of the good husbandman. Through the press of the State are scattered reports and interviews marking him as an initiator or an advocate of tree planting and preservation, of street widening and parking, of park purchasing and improvement. When the appropriation for the purchase of the permanent fair grounds proved but half what was necessary for the retention of the fair at his city, and when the securing of the balance

had all but been abandoned, Isaac Brandt threw his own personality, time and zeal into the enterprise, solicited, collected and paid into the treasury of the state fair more than fifty thousand dollars, which, with the sum appropriated by the legislature, provided the grounds for the permanent location of the State Agricultural Society. He was prone to lighten the burdens of his fellow men. In so doing he promoted the reunion of citizens upon almost every pretext. He had the sense of the historian and attended to the ample report and permanent record of every such reunion. From such disposition he became the chief promoter and either made or caused to be made the records of the Octogenarian Society of Des Moines, the Polk County Pioneers' Association, the "Ohioa" Society of Polk County, the Iowa Tippecanoe Club, formed of those who like himself had been through the campaign for the elder Harrison, and the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association. He was an active member and once the presiding officer of Capitol Grange No. 5, Patrons of Husbandry. He was by nature as sweet and as soft of heart as a woman. He was almost never free from pecuniary responsibility for others, and if the complete records of the successful business lives of his community are ever made up, the name and credit of Isaac Brandt will be written into many at their critical points. He never withheld a word of good whose gift would make for the comfort or happiness of any man.

WILLIAM T. SHAW was born in Steuben, Maine, September 22, 1822; he died at Anamosa, Iowa, April 29, 1909. He was of English descent, of a family which rendered effective service for independence in the war of the revolution and which made itself felt for the right in every community into which it scattered from its first American settlement in Maine. Col. Shaw was educated at Kent's Hill. He engaged in school teaching in Indiana and Kentucky. From the latter State he enlisted for service in the Mexican war, serving throughout that conflict. He commanded a company of men that crossed the plains to California by way of the Santa Fe route in 1849. For two years he engaged there in the mining and lumbering business. He acquired lands and settled in Jones county, Iowa, in 1854. He soon became, and ever after during his active life remained, a prominent factor in the development and public life of Jones county. He was a leading spirit in the promotion of the Dubuque, Southwestern and Farley Railway in 1857, now a part of the Milwaukee system. He was president of what was called the Midland Road, now a part of the Northwestern, and through his efforts this was completed to Anamosa. He represented his county in the lower house of the 16th General Assembly. But with all his grandeur and force of character as a civilian, Col. Shaw as a soldier was greater. En route with his family to their old home in Maine, he wired an offer of his services to Governor Kirkwood when Fort Sumpter was fired upon. The offer was accepted, Col. Shaw proceeded to raise a regiment, and on Nov. 6, 1861, the 14th Iowa Volunteers, was mustered in. The distinction that regiment conferred upon itself is one of the most glorious of the bright chapters of Iowa military history. The men cheerfully gave to Col. Shaw the credit for its highest qualities. In special order No. 132, Major General A. J. Smith states, "It is but an act of justice to an energetic, thorough and competent officer to say that for the past fifteen months he has been in this command, he has commanded the

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