

John Kingsley Macomber

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

Recommended Citation

"John Kingsley Macomber." *The Annals of Iowa* 9 (1910), 554-555.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3652>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

MAJ. A. S. CARPER was born at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Aug. 8, 1838; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, May 11, 1910. Maj. Carper was always interested in politics, casting his first vote for president for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. When the first call for troops was issued, he enlisted in the Sixteenth Illinois volunteer infantry. At the end of three months he enlisted in the Fiftieth Illinois regiment, serving with distinction throughout the war, and winning several promotions. He came to Iowa in 1881, locating in Waterloo. In 1885, when Frank D. Jackson was elected secretary of state, Maj. Carper was chosen as his deputy. For eleven years he was chairman of the Polk county soldiers' relief society, and for a number of years was associated with Isaac Brandt in the real estate business. In 1901 he was appointed to a position in the office of Governor Cummins, and later was employed in the archives department. Maj. Carper was esteemed and respected by all who knew him.

CHARLES ABIATHAR WHITE was born at North Dighton, Mass., January 26, 1826; he died at Washington, D. C., June 29, 1910. He removed to Iowa in 1839. He attended the public schools at his home in Massachusetts and in Burlington, Iowa, prior to his matriculation at Rush Medical College from which he graduated in 1863. In 1866 he became state geologist of Iowa, continuing until 1870, and for the years 1867 to 1873 he was professor of natural history at the State University of Iowa. In 1873 he became professor of natural history at Bowdoin College, remaining two years. During 1874 he became attached to the United States Geographical and Geological Survey west of the 100th meridian under Lieut. J. M. Wheeler, in the capacity of geologist and paleontologist. In the same capacity he was with the surveys of Major John W. Powell in 1875 and 1876, and Ferdinand V. Hayden up to 1879. He had charge of the paleontological collections of the U. S. National Museum from 1879 to 1882, and in 1881 acted as Chief of the Artesian Wells Commission under the auspices of the U. S. Agricultural Department. In 1882 he was connected with the U. S. Geological Survey, and in 1883 as paleontologist, had charge of the Mesozoic vertebrates. He attained unequalled reputation as authority in certain branches of fossil life. The degree of A. M. was conferred on him by Iowa College in 1866, and that of LL. D. by the State University of Iowa in 1893. He was the author of over two hundred papers on scientific subjects, including a Report on the Iowa Geological Survey, 1870; Report on Invertebrate Fossils and Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, 1875; Bibliography of North American Invertebrate Paleontology, 1878; Review of the New Marine Fossil Mollusca of North America, 1883; Review of the Fossil Ostreidae of North America, 1883; Contributions to the Paleontology of Brazil, 1887; the Relation of Biology to Geological Investigation, 1894. He was one of the earliest and staunchest friend of Mr. Charles Aldrich in his work of founding the Historical Department of Iowa, and his contributions of specimens, manuscripts and articles for publication, have formed a most valuable part of these collections. A more adequate sketch of the life of Dr. White will later appear in *The Annals*.

JOHN KINGSLEY MACOMBER was born in Northampton, Mass., Feb. 2, 1849; he died at Des Moines, Iowa, May 2, 1910. At the age of fourteen he removed with his father's family to Cass county, Iowa, and was engaged at that early age as an employe of a stage line

across Iowa. He was of a cultured and studious turn of mind, and secured an elementary education with very little assistance. He taught school between the age of fifteen and twenty, and with funds thus earned attended the State Agricultural College at Ames, graduating therefrom in 1872. He then went to Cornell University, where he took a course in law, and later attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, securing a most liberal education before he became attached to the faculty of the college at Ames as professor of mathematics. This work he continued for five years. He then removed to Des Moines and engaged in the practice of law. He was soon elected city attorney, and some of the litigation which he instituted and successfully prosecuted has been of permanent value to the city and State. A similar capacity for effective work was exemplified in his administration of the office of county attorney of Polk county. He was a strong candidate before the Polk county primaries for judge of the district court at the time of his death.

GEORGE HENRY WILLIAMS was born in Columbia county, New York, March 23, 1823; he died at Portland, Ore., April 4, 1910. He was educated at Pompey College, Onondaga county, New York, admitted to the bar in 1844, and removed to Ft. Madison, Iowa, soon thereafter. He soon formed a partnership with Daniel F. Miller, at that time prominent among the lawyers of Iowa territory. He was elected judge in the first Iowa district in 1847, serving until 1852. In the latter year he was democratic presidential elector and canvassed Iowa for Franklin Pierce in 1852. After his election President Pierce appointed Mr. Williams chief justice of the territory of Oregon. He was re-appointed to the office by President Buchanan, but declined. He was a member of the convention that framed the constitution of Oregon in 1858, and was chairman of the judiciary committee of that body; he was elected U. S. senator from Oregon as a union republican, serving from 1865 to 1871. He was a member of the Joint High Commission in 1871 which arranged the treaty at Washington for the adjustment of differences between Great Britain and the United States, growing out of the Alabama claims. He was Attorney-General of the United States from 1871 to 1875, and was nominated by President Grant as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1874, but his name was withdrawn. He was in the continuous practice of the law at Portland, Ore., after 1875. He served as mayor of Portland from 1902 to 1905, was president of the Business Girls Aid Society and of the Pattion Home for the Aged.

THOMAS MILTON FEE was born at Feesburg, Brown county, Ohio, April 18, 1839; he died at Centerville, Iowa, April 13, 1910. He was educated in the common schools of his native State and in the Academy at Perry, Ill. He removed with his family to Pike county, Illinois, in 1847. After finishing his education he became a teacher, his first experience being at Shibley's Point, Mo., in 1853. About this time he removed to Ottumwa, Iowa, where he became principal of schools. He took up the study of law in the office of Col. Samuel W. Summers, of Ottumwa, and was admitted to the bar in 1862. In May of that year he entered the practice of his pro-

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.