

Morris William Blair

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burg, Pa. He at once united with the Pittsburg Conference and was stationed near the Virginia border until 1864. In 1865 he was transferred to Upper Iowa Conference and was pastor at Waterloo, Monticello and Decorah before 1871, when he resigned and traveled through Palestine and adjacent territory. He contributed letters to a Chicago paper while abroad and to Methodist publications after his return, his travels forming bases of lectures he delivered extensively during his remaining years. He was made secretary of the American and Foreign Christian Union which supported missionaries in Italy, Greece and Mexico. For twelve years this work engaged him and in 1880 he wrote his history of Italy, a volume of 840 pages. He founded the *Iowa Methodist* in 1882, a non-official Methodist publication, continuing in its editorial management for twenty-seven years. He organized the Clear Lake Chautauqua and was actively engaged in its management until a few months prior to his death. He lost no interest, influence or efficiency as an advocate of good in social or political fields by being a consecrated, devoted and vigorous preacher of the gospel.

MORRIS WILLIAM BLAIR was born in Illinois Military District, (now Schuyler county), Illinois, June 20, 1825; he died near Kossuth, Des Moines county, Iowa, March 6, 1912. In 1836 his parents removed to the land which he later acquired and on which he resided until his death. His life began in most primitive conditions but by native strength of mind and character, and with an unusual intellectual industry he became a well educated man. He had a bent toward historical and genealogical study, contributing valuable materials to a number of publications, notably to the *Genealogy of the Sharpless Family, 1862-1882*. He was appointed an assessor of internal revenue in President Lincoln's administration, resigning 1865. He was the treasurer of his school district for the forty years prior to his death. He was a grandson of William Blair, a soldier of the Revolution, and an ancestor of the sixth generation was a parent of Daniel Defoe, the English writer.

DANIEL ALEXANDER LA FORCE was born May 17, 1837, in Lexington, Indiana; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, March 10, 1912. His parents were born in Kentucky, the father, Daniel G., of French Huguenot descent, whose genealogy presents most interesting features of the contribution of that part of French blood to American life, the most noted in line being Duc La Force, commander-in-chief of Huguenot troops in struggles for maintenance of their Protestant faith. Daniel G. La Force removed with his family in 1843 to a farm in the northwest corner of Van Buren county. They were among the first to settle permanently on the "New Purchase" ground.

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