

John Martin Brayton

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KATE SHELLY was born in county Tipperary, Munster Province, Ireland, September 25, 1865; she died at Moingona, Boone county, Iowa, January 21, 1912. In 1866 her parents emigrated to America and to the home where Miss Shelly died. The father was killed in a railway accident several years later. On the night of July 6, 1881, a freight train on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad was wrecked in a washout at Honey Creek, near the Shelly home. The sixteen year old girl on her own initiative improvised a lantern from parts of an ordinary lantern and a miner's lamp, breasted a drenching rain storm to the site of the wreck, and found the only surviving member of the crew, the engineer, clinging to a tree. Both knew of the impending arrival of an express train and of the only means of warning being at the station Moingona, a mile distant, across the Des Moines river. Her lantern failed her while at Honey Creek, and she made her way along the railroad grade, and on her hands and knees across the four hundred foot bridge with the warning which saved the express train. The railway company presented her with a one hundred dollar honorarium, for some years employed her as its station agent at Moingona and continued its courteous attention throughout her life. The Nineteenth General Assembly voted her two hundred dollars in cash, a gold medal and its thanks. Her life was that of a modest, useful citizen.

DEWALT SHONTZ FOUSE was born in Huntingdon county, Pa., in November, 1840; he died at Lisbon, Linn county, Iowa, March 12, 1912. He was educated at Franklin and Marshall college, Lancaster, Pa., but discontinued his studies to enlist in Company C, 53d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He rose from Sergeant to First Lieutenant, and for great part of his service was Acting Adjutant of his regiment. He was honorably discharged, then entered Mercersburg Theological Seminary, graduating in 1867, removing at once to Iowa, where he served in the Reform Church ministry at Tipton, Lisbon and in that general locality for the remaining forty-five years of his life.

JOHN MARTIN BRAYTON was born at Newport, New York, September 15, 1831; he died at Delhi, Iowa, September 18, 1911. He was a son of Smith Brayton, a surveyor and farmer. He was educated at Whitestown seminary, Whitestown, New York, and Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, from which institution he received the degree of A. M., some time after his graduation with the degree of LL. B. in 1853. He removed to Delhi, Delaware county, Iowa, in the fall of 1854 and became a member of the law firm of House, Brayton & Watson, continuing in this connection until 1864. He was elected as a Republican to the Iowa Senate in 1863, serving two

terms. He served as judge of the Ninth Iowa District from January 1, 1871, to July, 1872. He was a man of strong and broad mind, was interested in many improvements of culture and was a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

SAMUEL HOUSTON HARPER was born near Zanesville, Ohio, April 23, 1843; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, December 17, 1911. At the age of ten his family removed to a farm near Ottumwa, where the remainder of his youth was spent. He enlisted in Company B, Thirty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry in June, 1863, and by promotion attained the rank of Captain, serving until honorably discharged in February 1866. Very soon after the close of the war he entered the hardware business in Ottumwa, first as a clerk, then for himself in association with various other persons until 1892, when the firm of Harper & McIntire was formed and still continues, Captain Harper having been the controlling factor in its growth into one of the largest wholesale hardware establishments in the State. His fine ability and his standing as an honorable and trustworthy man drew to him such connections as the presidency of the Agency Savings Bank, vice presidency of the South Ottumwa Bank and the Phoenix Trust Company, directorship in the Iowa National Bank, Iowa Savings Bank, Dain Manufacturing Company, United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, Chilli-cothe Savings Bank, Ottumwa Y. M. C. A., Ottumwa Cemetery Association, the Open Door Rescue Mission and the Ottumwa Public Library Board. He served in the Iowa Senate most efficiently during the 29th, 30th and 31st General Assemblies. Among memorable measures for which he labored was that for the appropriation for the erection of the Historical, Memorial and Art Building. He was commander of the Iowa Department G. A. R. in 1905 and of the Loyal Legion Iowa Commandery, in 1906. He was a presidential elector and a delegate to the national monetary conventions at Indianapolis in 1896 and 1898. He was serving most successfully as Mayor of Ottumwa at the time of his death.

STEPHEN PARKER O'BRIEN was born in Brown county, Ohio, December 24, 1825; he died at Ames, Iowa, March 17, 1912. He enlisted for the war with Mexico in Company C, Indiana Infantry, Captain John Osborn, serving through the war, and engaging under General Zachary Taylor in the battle of Buena Vista, February 22 and 23, 1847. He removed to Story county, Iowa, in 1852, was admitted to the Story county bar by Judge J. C. McFarland in May, 1854, being the first lawyer admitted. On August 4 1862, he enlisted in Company A, 23d Iowa Volunteer Infantry, was made First Sergeant, promoted to Second Lieutenant, then to First Lieutenant,

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