

## Josiah Little Pickard

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

"Josiah Little Pickard." *The Annals of Iowa* 11 (1914), 480-480.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3952>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

came west and settled in Independence where he maintained his residence until his death. He worked on a farm and took up the study of law. In 1859 he was admitted to the bar and began the practice. He served as Representative in the Ninth and Ninth Extra General Assemblies which arranged for taking the votes of soldiers in the field and caring for families of soldiers. In the summer of 1862 he enlisted in Company C, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry and was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel. He participated in many of the important engagements of the war, including Pleasant Hill, Tupelo, Nashville and the siege and capture of Fort Blakeley. After being mustered out at Clinton, Iowa, August 9, 1865, he resumed the practice of law at Independence and formed a partnership with Mr. M. W. Harmon which lasted over forty years. This firm was employed in many important cases, one of which was the celebrated "Driven Well case" which lasted nine years. This case was of national importance, and the Twenty-second General Assembly of Iowa extended their thanks to Colonel Lake for his work in a joint resolution passed February 4, 1888. Colonel Lake was presidential elector in 1888. In the winter of 1893-4 he was a member of a commission appointed by President Harrison to appraise sixty-six thousand acres of land in northern California. He was instrumental in obtaining a library building for Independence in 1894 and served as president of the board of trustees. He was councilman six years, member of the school board and of the county board of supervisors. He also served as president of a commission appointed to erect the Cherokee State Hospital and the Independence State Hospital.

JOSIAH LITTLE PICKARD was born at Rowley, Mass., March 17, 1824; he died in San Jose, California, March 24, 1914. He was the son of Samuel and Sarah (Coffin) Pickard and a descendant of John Pickard who emigrated from Rowley, England, and settled at Rowley, Mass., in 1638. He attended Lewiston Falls Academy and Bowdoin College from which he graduated in 1844. He taught in the academy at North Conway in 1844 and 1845; at Elizabeth, Illinois, in 1846; and was principal of Platteville Academy, Platteville, Wisconsin, from 1846 to 1860. He was state superintendent of public instruction in Wisconsin from 1860 to 1864 and superintendent of public schools in Chicago from 1864 to 1877. He was appointed president of the State University of Iowa in June, 1878, and served until September, 1887. During his administration the work of the departments of history and natural science was enlarged and the colleges of dentistry and homeopathic medicine were added. His varied educational experiences and broad mind made him especially valuable to the institution. After leaving the presidency he was a university lecturer for two years. He then removed to Cupertino, California, where he spent his time conducting a ranch. Dr. Pickard served for one year as president of the National Educational Association and as president of the Iowa State Historical Society at Iowa City for many years. He was the author of *School Supervision* and the *History of Political Parties of the United States*. Dr. Pickard's strong moral character influenced for good all with whom he came in contact. He desired education for the students not alone for its own sake but for the sake of life and character.

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.