

Gershom Hyde Hill

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"Gershom Hyde Hill." *The Annals of Iowa* 15 (1926), 395-396.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5011>

Hosted by Iowa Research Online

NOTABLE DEATHS

WASHINGTON IRVING BABB was born October 2, 1844, near where Sperry Station, Des Moines County, Iowa, now stands, and died at St. Charles hospital near his residence at Aurora, Illinois, September 4, 1925. Burial was at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. In 1860 he entered Iowa Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant. On August 24, 1863, he enlisted in Company E, Eighth Iowa Cavalry, was promoted to regimental quartermaster sergeant July 1, 1865, and mustered out August 13, 1865. He resumed his studies at Iowa Wesleyan, and was graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1866. In 1869 he received the degree of A. M. and in 1898 that of LL.D. from the same institution. He also received the degree of LL.D. from the State University of Iowa in 1907. He read law with Henry Ambler of Mount Pleasant, was admitted to the bar and joined his former preceptor in the firm of Ambler & Babb January 1, 1868. This partnership continued until 1873, when he joined with John S. Woolson as Woolson & Babb, which partnership terminated in 1891 when Mr. Babb went on the bench. In 1883 he was elected representative and served in the Twentieth General Assembly. In 1890 he was elected a district judge in the Second Judicial District, and served from 1891 to 1894. He then resumed practice, entering partnership with W. S. Withrow as Babb & Withrow. In 1895 he was the Democratic nominee for governor, and in the Twenty-sixth General Assembly, which met in January, 1896, received the vote of his party for United States senator. In August, 1896, he was both temporary and permanent chairman of the Sound Money Democratic State Convention, and was a delegate at large from Iowa to the National Convention of that party, which met at Indianapolis and nominated John M. Palmer for president. When Judge Withrow went on the bench in 1897 Judge Babb and his son, Max W., associated together in the practice as Babb & Son. In 1907 he became legal adviser of the Western Wheeler Scraper Company at Aurora, Illinois, and in 1910 became president of that company, and vice president of the Austin Manufacturing Company of Chicago. He spent the later years of his life at Aurora. He was a member of the Board of Regents of the State University of Iowa from 1898 to 1906, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Wesleyan University from 1872 until his death.

GERSHOM HYDE HILL was born at Garnavillo, Iowa, May 8, 1846, and died in Des Moines, November 23, 1925. Burial was at Grinnell, Iowa. His parents were Rev. James Jeremiah and Sarah Elizabeth (Hyde) Hill. His father was one of the famous "Iowa Band" of young Congregational ministers who came from Massachusetts to Iowa in 1844 and 1844. James Jeremiah Hill was pastor at Garnavillo from 1844 until

1849, when he removed his family to Albany, Illinois, later to Savannah, Illinois, and to Wapello, Iowa, as he held pastorates at those places. In 1860 he removed to Grinnell in order to educate his children. Here Gershom, then fourteen years old, attended school, and taught several terms of school in the country. On May 24, 1864, he enlisted in Company B, Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry, and was mustered out at the end of his service, September 23, 1864. He was graduated from Iowa (now Grinnell) College in 1871 with the degree of A. B., and from Rush Medical College, Chicago, with the degree of M. D. in 1874. He began the practice of medicine at Moline, Illinois, but in December, 1874, was elected assistant superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Independence, and in 1881 became superintendent. He thoroughly qualified himself for this work, taking postgraduate work at Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York in 1878, and at Harvard Medical School, Boston, in 1890. In 1902 he removed to Des Moines and engaged in practice as an alienist. In 1905, in conjunction with Dr. John C. Doolittle, he established a private hospital for nervous and mental invalids, which was known as The Retreat, and of which Dr. Hill was superintendent. In 1924, owing to failing health, he sold his interest in this hospital to Drs. John C. and Russell Doolittle. Dr. Hill lectured on insanity at the College of Medicine, State University of Iowa, 1890-1906, and was professor of mental diseases in College of Medicine, Drake University, 1903-1913. He had many activities outside his profession, was a trustee of Grinnell College from 1888, was for a time president of the Anti-Saloon League of Iowa, was a member of the Executive Committee of Associated Charities of Des Moines, was a past commander of Crocker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, Des Moines, a past president of the State Society, Sons of the American Revolution, was the senior deacon in Plymouth Congregational church, Des Moines, and belonged to many organizations connected with his profession and with civic and benevolent affairs.

CYRUS L. STRATTON was born in Wayne County, Ohio, December 18, 1843, and died in Red Oak, Iowa, July 6, 1923. He was educated in public school, at Canaan Academy, and at Mount Union College Alliance, Ohio. He taught school some years, then in 1872 removed to Montgomery County, Iowa, and engaged in farming north of Red Oak. He was a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, and when a country church was built in his neighborhood it was named "Stratton Church." He was elected a member of the Board of Supervisors in 1887, and was re-elected in 1890, serving six years, or from January, 1888, to January, 1894. During that time the present Montgomery County Courthouse was built, much of the responsibility of the supervision of construction devolving on Mr. Stratton. He was elected representative in 1899, and was re-elected in 1901, serving in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth general assemblies.

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.