

Jame C. Murtagh

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"Jame C. Murtagh." *The Annals of Iowa* 16 (1929), 555-556.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5277>

Hosted by Iowa Research Online

Samuel W. Hemenway, captain of Company B, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. They had two sons and four daughters. She was an artist of ability and student of the best in art and literature. Possessing a remarkable and accurate memory she was an authority on the early history of northeastern Iowa. She recalled with pleasure the early Sunday morning in May, 1851, when the famous sculptress, Harriett Hosmer, a passenger on the packet plying between St. Louis and St. Paul, climbed the high bluff back of the Honey home. In honor of Miss Hosmer's feat that morning it was at once christened and has always been called Mount Hosmer. And in the shadow of this bluff Martha T. Hemenway spent seventy-nine years of her life.—M. H.

GRACE MORRIS ALLEN JONES was born in Keokuk, Iowa, January 7, 1876, and died at Piney Woods, Mississippi, March 2, 1928. Her parents, James Addison and Mary Ellen (Pyles) Morris, removed with their family to Burlington soon after Grace's birth. She attended school there and was the first colored person to graduate from the Burlington High School, which was in 1891. She attended the Burlington Normal School in 1894-95, Elliott's Business College, Burlington, in 1909, and Siegfried Musical College in 1910-12. On completing a year's study in the Burlington Normal School she taught school at Bethel, Missouri, a year, and followed this by acting as assistant teacher in the colored schools at Slater, Missouri. In 1902 she founded the Grace M. Allen Industrial School at Burlington where she employed both white and colored teachers, and accepted both white and colored pupils. In 1906 she discontinued the work of this school and for a few years traveled for Ambidexter Institute of Springfield, Illinois, and Eckstein-Norton Normal and Industrial Institute of Cane Springs, Kentucky, as financial agent. In 1912 she was married to Lawrence C. Jones, the founder of Piney Woods Country Life School, and became a teacher of English in and the executive secretary of that institution. From 1918 to 1923 she was president of the Mississippi Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, and was otherwise engaged in activities for the help of colored people. She exerted an unusual influence for good during her very active career.

JAMES C. MURTAGH was born at Waverly, Iowa, June 16, 1880, and died in Waterloo September 13, 1928. His parents were James X. and Mercy L. Murtagh. In 1884 the family removed to Shell Rock. Here James attended public school, being graduated from Shell Rock High School, after which he entered the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1901. He then attended law school one year in Yale University, following that by locating in December, 1902, in Waterloo, where he began practice. He attained considerable success as a criminal lawyer and was retained by the defense in several noted cases, especially in his section of the state. In 1906, then being but twenty-six years old, he was the Demo-

cratic nominee from the Third District for Congress, running unsuccessfully against Benjamin P. Birdsall. In 1914 he was again his party's candidate for Congress, and was defeated by Burton E. Sweet, and again in 1916, again losing to Mr. Sweet. In 1924 he was the Democratic candidate for governor of the state, being defeated by John Hammill. His party was a minority party in all these elections, else he doubtless would have been successful politically. He had a winsome personality, was gifted with the art of oratory, and was always in demand as a public speaker.

ALLEN J. HOUSE was born near Brantford, Ontario, Canada, January 12, 1847, and died in Maquoketa, Iowa, September 6, 1928. When fourteen years of age, owing to his parents' large family, he left home to earn his own living. Two years later, in 1863, he arrived at Maquoketa to make his home with relatives. Here he engaged in farm work during summers and attended public school in Maquoketa in winters. In 1866 he lost an arm in a mowing machine accident. The following winter he attended the State University of Iowa, and followed that by teaching school for four years, in the meantime reading law with C. M. Dunbar of Maquoketa, and was admitted to the bar in 1870. In 1871 he was elected county superintendent and, after serving two years in that position, was county auditor four years. From 1878 to 1892 he was associated with Levi Keck in the practice of law and the abstract business. The General Assembly having provided for an additional judge in the Seventh Judicial District Governor Boies appointed Mr. House to that position, and by reason of elections he served continuously for thirty-four years, or until 1926, when he declined to be a candidate again owing to failing health. In politics he was a Democrat.

JAMES B. ROCKAFELLOW was born on a farm in Fulton county, Illinois, January 29, 1851, and died at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. McCabe, in Davenport, Iowa, May 3, 1928. Burial was at Atlantic, Iowa. His parents removed to Galva, Illinois, in 1857. James B. attended public school and was graduated from the Galva High School. After working on a farm two years he matriculated in Union College of Law, Chicago, and was graduated in 1875. He then removed to Atlantic, Iowa, and began practice. In 1878 he was elected city solicitor of Atlantic. In 1881 he discontinued practice, removed to Harlan and conducted a drug store, but in 1885 returned to Atlantic and resumed the practice of law. From 1898 to 1906 he was referee in bankruptcy for Cass, Audubon, and Shelby counties. On April 25, 1913, he was appointed by Governor Clarke one of the judges of the Fifteenth Judicial District, the General Assembly having provided for another judge. He was elected in 1914 and continued in the position until 1922. The last few years of his life he was in retirement because of failing eyesight and he finally became totally blind.

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.