

**Matt Ewart**

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# ANNALS OF IOWA

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### NOTABLE DEATHS

VICTORIA J. DEWEY was born in Dandridge, Tennessee, April 15, 1850, and died in Chariton, Iowa, December 26, 1930. The body was removed to Des Moines and temporarily placed in a vault to await cremation. In 1867 she was with her parents, John and Jane (Cowan) Branner in their removal to Chariton. After attending the Episcopal school at Dubuque she returned in 1871 to Dandridge, Tennessee, and was married to Joel Allen Dewey, a former brigadier general in the Union Army. Two years later General Dewey died, and Mrs. Dewey, with their only child, Walter H. Dewey, removed in 1885 to Chariton. She was the financial founder of the Hawkeye Produce Company of Chariton, was financially interested in real estate and building operations in that city, and was for several years in the 1900's owner of, and assisted her son in managing the *Chariton Democrat*. She was a pioneer woman suffragist, an ardent W. C. T. U. worker, a dry Democrat, and an Episcopalian. She was an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention at San Francisco in 1920. She assisted in the establishment of the Chariton Free Public Library, was for a time president of the board, presided at the ceremonies and formally laid the corner stone of the Library building. This versatile and talented woman was active in business, religion, charity, social service and in almost all public movements for the welfare of her community.

CHARLES WESLEY BLACK was born near Brownsville, Ohio, September 27, 1843, and died at Malvern, Iowa, October 12, 1930. His parents were William and Martha Reed Black. He was reared on a farm and attended common school, however, after his twelfth year only in winters. On August 1, 1861, he enlisted in Company G, Thirty-second Ohio Infantry, and was with his regiment in all its great campaigns, being much in the commands of Logan, Grant and Sherman, and was honorably discharged July 28, 1865. Returning home he attended two terms of school at Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio, and in 1867 removed to Tonica, Illinois, and in 1872, to near Malvern, Iowa. Farming was his vocation at which he was successful. In 1899 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1901, serving in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth general assemblies. He was prominent in the Presbyterian church and Sunday school, in the G. A. R., in benevolences, in local enterprises, and was held in high esteem by the entire community.

MATT EWART was born in Morrow County, Ohio, in 1839, and died in a hospital in Grinnell, Iowa, July 18, 1921. Burial was in the cemetery

near Ewart, Poweshiek County. He removed to Poweshiek County in 1866 where he and his brother Robert, under the firm name of Ewart Brothers, acquired about 3,000 acres of land in Pleasant Township and successfully carried on a farming and live stock business on a large scale. Matt Ewart was a progressive and public spirited citizen. He had been a Republican, advocated and voted for the prohibitory amendment to the Constitution of Iowa in 1882, supported the Farmers Alliance and was friendly to the Greenback cause. In 1889 the Democrats nominated him for representative and he was elected, defeating W. H. Redman, Republican, who had been speaker of the house the preceding session. Mr. Ewart therefore served in the Twenty-third General Assembly in which occurred that famous and almost even struggle to repeal the prohibitory law. Although elected on the ticket of the party asking for the repeal, the ticket on which Horace Boies was chosen governor, Mr. Ewart refused to deviate from his well known convictions on that subject.

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SILAS G. SWEET was born in Madison County, New York, December 17, 1827, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. L. Bane, at Altoona, Iowa, April 9, 1916. Interment was in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines. His parents were Rufus and Adaline (Gates) Sweet. He received his education in country schools and at Fredonia Academy, Fredonia, New York. In 1855 he removed to Millersburg, Iowa County, Iowa. He was active in social and public affairs, was a school-teacher for some time, was assessor and justice of the peace. He also engaged in milling and in contracting business. In 1863 he was elected representative and served in the Tenth General Assembly. In 1870 he removed his milling business to Valley Junction where he resided until 1881 when he removed to Des Moines.

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EDWARD HENRY CUNNINGHAM was born at Burlington, Wisconsin, December 14, 1869, and died in Washington, D. C., November 28, 1930. Burial was at Newell, Iowa. His parents were P. H. and Hannah (Nagle) Cunningham. His education was received in common schools. In 1889 he removed to near Manson, Calhoun County, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand, and in 1892 to near Newell, Buena Vista County, where he was manager of an extensive farm. He continued as a farmer for several years, following that by a residence in Newell where he engaged in real estate business, and where he served as mayor from 1902 to 1906. In 1908 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1910 and 1912, serving in the Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth general assemblies, being speaker of the House in the Thirty-fifth. In 1917 he removed to a farm in Howard County. He was active in 1918 and later as one of the principal leaders in organizing and building up the Farm Bureau Federation of Iowa, and was its secretary from 1920 to 1923. In 1923 President Harding appointed him a member of the Federal Reserve Board, as the farm member of that body, in which position he was serving at the time of his death.

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