

William McEntyre Dye

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wife. Whenever he felt that the ends of justice had been reached he was always ready to ask for the offender's pardon. When Judge Woolson signed a petition it was deemed safe to follow him in the plea for mercy. He was a man of the highest personal character, the soul of honor, an always upright Christian gentleman, well known throughout the State, and universally esteemed. In the maturity of his mental powers, and with the prospect of many useful years before him, he seemed but a short time ago to be singularly fortunate in his position and surroundings. But he fell a victim to overwork and passed away when his career of usefulness seemed fullest of promise.

WILLIAM McENTYRE DYE was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1831; he died at Muskegon, Michigan, November 13, 1899. He entered the Military Academy at West Point, July 1, 1849, and graduated No. 32 in his class of 52, July 1, 1853. Gen. P. H. Sheridan was No. 34 in the same class. He served until November 9, 1854, as brevet 2d lieutenant of Infantry, when he was promoted to 2d lieutenant. He was stationed at various places from Fort Columbus, New York, to Fort Reading, California, and at many posts on the Texas and western frontiers. He was promoted to captain of the 8th Infantry, May 14, 1861. Governor Kirkwood appointed him colonel of the 20th Iowa Volunteer Infantry August 25, 1862. He had previously served on mustering duty for some months in this State. From that time until the end of the Rebellion he was upon active duty, participating in many important battles. He was also engaged in the siege of Vicksburg and in most of the important events of the Department of the Gulf. He was brevetted major, lieutenant-colonel and colonel in the Regular Army, for gallant and meritorious service. On March 31, 1865, he was made brevet brigadier-general of Volunteers. After the war he went back to his rank of major of the 4th Regular Infantry, in which he served until September 7, 1870, when he was honorably discharged at his own request. Returning to Iowa he settled at Marion, Linn county, as a farmer, where he remained until 1873. In the latter year he went to Egypt, where he served in the Khedive's army, and was severely wounded in the Battle of Abyssinia. He returned to this country in 1879 and served as Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia, in 1883-86. In 1888 this gallant soldier of fortune went to Corea, where he became military adviser and instructor-general in the service of the King of that country, introducing modern equipments and methods. He returned in 1899, "to die at home at last." He wrote a valuable book on "Moslem Egypt and Christian Abyssinia, or Military Service under the Khedive," which is one of the leading authorities on that region. Though not attaining the highest rank and position, Gen. Dye made a brilliant and enduring record in the service of his own country before accepting service abroad.

JOHN I. BLAIR was born in Warren county, New Jersey, August 22, 1802; he died at Blairstown, New Jersey, December 2, 1899. He was directly descended from John Blair who emigrated from Scotland to this country in 1720. His education was limited to a few months in the common schools during the winter and ended when he reached the age of eleven. He immediately entered a store at Hope, New Jersey, for the purpose of learning the business. He remained there until 1821 when he settled in Blairstown, New Jersey, in co-partnership with John Blair, a relative, and established a general country store. Two years later the partnership was dissolved and he continued the business for forty years, establishing branches in several neighboring towns, and in Johnsonsburg, New York. He also became interested in flouring mills, cotton manufactures and buying and selling country produce. He filled the office of postmaster in Blairstown forty years. From the year 1846 he was connected with the building of railroads,

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