Justus Clark

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
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.2022

Hosted by Iowa Research Online
patriotic defender of his country, and a promoter of the highest interests of the community in which he lived, Arthur Haswell deserves to be remembered.

JOSEPH C. GOODSON who died in Dallas county on the 17th of February, was one of the early pioneers in that part of Iowa. He came to the Des Moines valley in 1847, and entered the farm where he spent the remainder of his life. He was born in Tennessee in 1812, and lived to the age of eighty-three. His wife was from Indiana, and taught the first school in Boone township, Dallas county, in their old log house, where church services were also held in early days. Mr. Goodson was a stanch Democrat and in 1832 was chosen to represent Polk, Dallas, Jasper, Boone, Marshall, Hardin, Guthrie, Yell (now Webster), Risley (now Hamilton), and fifteen other unorganized counties of north-western Iowa in the House of the Fourth General Assembly. His colleagues from that district were J. F. Rice and Benjamin Green. Mr. Goodson held several township and county offices at various times in all of which he served with fidelity. He was an active member of the Methodist church during his whole life.

GEORGE W. VAN HORN of Muscatine died at his home in that city on the 8th of February. He was born at Springfield, Massachusetts, October 12, 1833. He studied law with Chas. R. Ladd at his New England home when a young man, and came to Muscatine, Iowa, in May, 1855. After admission to the bar he became the partner of Hon. D. C. Cloud, then Attorney General of the State. Mr. Van Horn was an earnest Republican in the early history of that party, and an active advocate of its principles in the Fremont and Lincoln campaigns. Upon the election of Lincoln, Mr. Van Horn was appointed U. S. Consul to Marseilles, France, serving with marked ability until 1866 when he was removed by President Johnson. Upon his return to Iowa he was called by the Republican State Central Committee of Arkansas to take editorial charge of the new state paper just established at Little Rock. In 1870 he returned to Muscatine and began the publication of the Muscatine Tribune. Mr. Van Horn had now become an advocate of free trade and "local option" for the liquor traffic, and thus found himself in harmony with the Democratic party. When the daily News and Tribune were consolidated he was made editor of the combined papers. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster of Muscatine by President Cleveland, which position he held at the time of his death. As a writer and editor he held high rank, winning distinction in literary circles. He was the author of many charming stories and sketches. He was an enthusiastic patron of art, science, and general literature, and one of the promoters of the City Lyceum and the Academy of Science. In religious belief Mr. Van Horn was a Unitarian. In September 1858 he was married to Mary, only daughter of Dr. J. G. Morrow one of the founders of Muscatine. Miss Morrow was the first girl Mr. Van Horn met when he landed from the steamer that carried him to the little frontier village of Muscatine, in May, 1855; and she was said to have been the first native bride in Iowa.

JUSTUS CLARK, one of the best known citizens of southern Iowa, died at Los Angeles, California, on the 17th of February. Mr. Clark was born at Royalton, Vermont, March 22, 1819. He was brought up on a farm and never forsook his early occupation. His father bought the Governor Chittenden farm which was the largest in the State, and it is still owned by the Clark family. In his school days, Justus attended the Williston Academy where Chester A. Arthur (the future
President) was a student, and Arthur's father was principal of the Academy. Young Clark came west in May, 1839, the year after Iowa was organized into a Territory, settling at Burlington. In 1842 he purchased a farm near the city, where he took his young wife (a Miss Cartmill) who was also one of the first settlers in Des Moines county. He has held, at various times, most of the township and county offices. In 1852 he was elected one of the Representatives from Des Moines county to the Legislature, James W. Grimes being one of his colleagues. In 1857 he was again chosen to represent his county in the lower house of the Legislature, and was re-elected in 1859. His colleagues in the Eighth General Assembly from Des Moines county were Judge J. C. Hall and M. W. Robinson in the House and W. F. Coolbaugh in the Senate, all of whom were legislators of unusual prominence. About the year 1876 he removed to a large farm he had purchased in Montgomery county, where he eventually increased his plantation to 3,500 acres, all of which was under fence, and clear of incumbrance. He was for more than forty years one of the best and most successful of Iowa farmers, accumulating a large fortune by intelligent and judicious farm management. Mr. Clark has been President of the Iowa Fine Stock Breeders Association, and Vice President of the National Cattle and Horse Growers Association. He was an extensive traveler, having visited the principal countries of Europe, as well as Alaska, the Pacific states and Mexico at various times, always returning to Iowa with renewed love for the Hawkeye State. Mr. Clark was a life long Democrat, and one of the trusted leaders of his party. In 1883 he was nominated for Lieutenant Governor, with Judge Kinne for Governor; but the Republican majority was too large to be overcome by this unusually strong ticket. During his fifty-five years residence in Iowa, Justus Clark has won and retained the confidence and esteem of the best people of the State. His life was one of great usefulness, and his memory will be revered by thousands of his fellow-citizens.

CAPTAIN ALLEN E. WEBB, a veteran of the war of the rebellion, died at his home in Eldora on the 7th of March, nearly sixty years of age. He was a native of Ohio and came to Iowa in 1853, settling at Eldora. At the beginning of the late war Mr. Webb was among the first to enlist as a private in the Union army. Upon the organization of Company A of the 12th Iowa Volunteers, he was chosen first Lieutenant. He was wounded at the battle of Corinth in October, 1862. He was promoted to Captain for meritorious services, and was very popular with his company, always doing his duty bravely. In 1863 his wound became so troublesome that he had to resign his commission and return home. Later he was elected sheriff of Hardin county and held other important offices at various times. He was a gallant soldier, a good citizen, and highly esteemed where he had lived so long and was known so well.

DR. GEORGE H. McGAVREN of Missouri Valley, died at the home of his daughter on the 16th of January. He was one of the first pioneers in Harrison county, having settled there early in the "50's." He was an eminent physician, and the leading practitioner in that part of western Iowa for more than thirty years. He was chairman of the first board of supervisors of Harrison county, and in 1870 he was its representative in the State Legislature. He left a widow and seven children. The Doctor was widely known throughout western Iowa and highly esteemed.