Susan Smith Russell

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LEMUEL B. PATTERSON, a pioneer of the Iowa Bar, and one of the oldest
and most influential citizens of Iowa City, died there, March 15, 1897. Mr.
Patterson was born in Indiana in 1824, removing to Iowa in 1841. At the
time the State capitol was located at Iowa City he was appointed Territorial
Librarian and served in that capacity for two terms. While holding this
office, although a young man, he rendered important aid in securing the
passage of the first Iowa Homestead law. In 1861 he formed a law part-
nership with Levi Robinson, which continuing until a recent date, constitu-
ted by far the oldest law firm in the State. Mr. Patterson served at dif-
terent times as Counsellor and as City Auditor. He was for twenty years
a member of the School Board, and is said to have been the first to advo-
cate the employment of women as teachers.

SUSAN SMITH RUSSELL, the first woman teacher in Iowa, and an old
pioneer of Jefferson, died at that place February 22, 1897. Mrs. Russell
was born in Maine in 1816. In 1837 she came to old Fort Des Moines and
began teaching in the barracks. This was one year after the Territory of
Wisconsin had been taken from Michigan Territory. While still engaged
in this work, Iowa was made a separate Territory and consequently Mrs.
Russell had the honor of being its first woman teacher. In territorial days
she also taught in Augusta, Iowa. While there she heard Governor Lucas
make a public speech, an occasion always remembered by her with great
pleasure. In 1868 she removed to Jefferson, where for the remainder of
her long life she was identified with the best interests of the town, honored
and beloved by all.

SUPT. C. C. CORY, of the Girls' Industrial School at Mitchellville, died in
Chicago, February 21, 1897. Supt. Cory took charge of the work in Mitch-
ellville in 1885, having been previously connected with the public schools
of Pella and also with the Central University located at that place. He was
a man of the highest character and discharged the duties of his responsible
position in the most faithful and conscientious manner, leaving an im-
pression for good on hundreds of young lives. No officer could be more
faithful to a public trust. Two new buildings for the Industrial Home
School have recently been erected, and to each he gave his personal super-
vision and care. His arduous duties impaired his health, and he was tak-
ing an enforced rest at the time of his death.

CAPT. NATHANIEL A. MERRILL died at his home in De Witt, December
31, 1896. The subject of this notice came to Iowa in 1856 and has long
been prominent in the public and political affairs of the State. A loyal
patriot, he rendered faithful service in the late war as Captain in the 26th
Iowa Infantry. He was severely wounded in the battle of Arkansas Post.
He was a member of the lower house in the 14th, 21st and 26th General
Assemblies, served in the Senate two terms, and at the time of his death
was the representative of Clinton county. He was President of the First
National Bank of De Witt, and until recently was a Commissioner of the
Iowa Soldiers' Home. He aided materially in the revision of the code of
1873. Capt. Merrill was a life-long Democrat.

MRS. KATHERINE ROOP, widow of Benjamin Roop, died in Oskaloosa,
January 29, 1897, at the age of ninety. Mrs. Roop was one of the earliest
pioneers of Oskaloosa, having come with her husband to that place in 1843,
a year before the town was laid out. Her death will recall to the old citi-
zens of that town and vicinity the prominent part taken by Mr. and Mrs.
Roop in early days. Their first residence, a large brick building, now
serving as a hotel, was erected before railroad times and much of the ma-
terial was brought by team from Keokuk and Burlington. A grandson of
Mrs. Roop is on the editorial staff of the Youth's Companion and another
is now serving as State Senator in Utah.