The Annals of Iowa

Volume 4 | Number 1 (1899) pps. 76-80

James H. Rothrock, James R. Scott, Charles E. Garst

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/10.17077/0003-4827.2355

Hosted by Iowa Research Online
NOTABLE DEATHS.

JAMES H. ROTHROCK was born at Milroy, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1829; he died at his home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, January 14, 1899. The family moved to Ohio in 1838, and settled upon a farm which, in reality was but a small clearing in the woods. The country had been but newly opened up to settlement, and the boy was only able to attend the common school during the three winter months. When he had reached the age of eighteen he attended an Academy at New Richmond a short time, where he prepared to enter the Franklin University at New Athens. As he was working his own way in securing an education, he taught school during the vacations. But he left the University during his Junior year, in 1852, and entered upon the study of the law at West Union, Ohio. He was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of the State, at Columbus, in 1854. He was chosen prosecuting attorney for Highland county, and served one term. Coming to Iowa in 1860 he settled at Tipton, Cedar county, where he was elected to the lower house of the legislature in the autumn of 1861. The session opened in the Old Capitol in the following January. His service was such as to give him a State reputation long before the session was over. Hon. Rush Clark, the Speaker, was compelled by ill health to retire some weeks previous to the end of the session, and Mr. Rothrock was chosen Speaker pro tem. His prompt and correct decisions, his judicial impartiality, and his courtesy and inborn kindness, made every acquaintance his personal friend. He served in the extra session of that year, after which Gov. Kirkwood tendered him the Colonelcy of the 35th Infantry, which, because of his inexperience in military affairs, he declined, like Theodore Roosevelt, to take the next lower place. His regiment went to Vicksburg, where Col. Rothrock led it in the historic but most disastrous charge of May 22, winning high credit for his skill and dashing bravery. An attack of typhoid fever incapacitated him for further service, and he came home to resume his law practice in Tipton, as the partner of the late Judge W. P. Wolf. He was chosen to the District Judgeship in 1866, where he served nine years, and was then appointed to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Bench of the State, from which he retired—declining another nomination—in 1896. He therefore served continuously as a Judge for thirty years. He won a reputation as a soldier, statesman and jurist, second to no Iowa man of his time. As one of the trustees of the State Historical Department, he took a deep and abiding interest in its work, especially favoring the publication of this Magazine. He was married in 1855 to Miss A. L. Foote of Hillsborough, Ohio, who died in Cedar Rapids, April 7, 1893. At this writing (March 9) it is understood that his decease will be duly noticed by the Supreme Court, and we hope hereafter to be able to present a more extended notice of his life and public services.

JAMES R. SCOTT was born at Catskill, New York, December 23, 1828; he died at Dubuque, Iowa, January 22, 1899. Mr. Scott learned the trade of a moulder, but came to Iowa in 1855, intending to enter a piece of land and become a farmer. Reaching Dubuque, he walked out to Independence, but found all the land in that region taken up. He retraced his steps to Dubuque, where he worked at his trade until 1857, when he became connected with The Daily Herald. He was employed as a collector and subscription agent and as commercial editor. It was in this last capacity that he did his best work, becoming widely known to the press and the business interests of the State. He developed the rarest ability and tact in gathering the news in regard to the prospects, movements and prices of the agricultural products of the State. The Historical Department of Iowa owns a measurably complete file of The Herald from 1847 until the present time,
EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

through all the administrations of Col. J. B. Dorr, Dennis A. Mahoney, Stillson Hutchins, John Hodnett, Patrick Robb & Co., and Ham & Carver. A feature of these files of The Herald which possesses high and enduring historical value is the commercial reports of Mr. Scott. They bear the marks of careful and conscientious work, covering the entire ground of local commercial transactions throughout this long series of years. He had the rarest faculty of gathering up and presenting in readable shape the business gossip of the day. In 1894 Hon. George E. Roberts (now Director of the U. S. Mint), compiled in a political pamphlet a statistical statement of the prices of Iowa productions, and some staple articles of merchandise, for a period of thirty-five years, nearly every figure in which was taken from The Herald reports by James R. Scott. Other writers in future years will doubtless go over them again and again, for the reason that they are so full and accurate. His labors were quiet and unpretending, but he had become one of the best known and best beloved citizens of Dubuque. It is seldom, indeed, that the loss of any public man has been more deeply deplored by the people of that city.

Mrs. Ada E. North was born at Alexander, New York, November 19, 1840; she died in Des Moines, January 9, 1899. She was the grand-daughter of Royal Keyes, a pioneer settler at Jamestown, Chautauqua county, New York, and the daughter of the Rev. Milo N. Miles, a Congregational clergyman long and favorably known in Iowa City and Des Moines. She was married in 1865 to Maj. George J. North, then military secretary to Gov. W. M. Stone. Later on he became private secretary to the Governor, but died early in 1870. The young widow was one of the first women in Iowa to seek public employment, becoming a copyist in the office of the clerk of the house in the legislative session of that year. In 1871 Gov. Merrill appointed her State Librarian, which position she held until 1878. On retiring from this position she was for a short time city librarian of Des Moines, but in 1879 was appointed librarian of the State University where she remained until 1892. Mrs. North made a proud record in Iowa library work, and it is within the bounds of truth to say that few public officials have come to enjoy so large a measure of public confidence. This confidence was based upon her wide intelligence and unquestioned efficiency. While in Iowa City she wrote much for the press of this State in advocacy of enlarging the benefits of our public libraries. The past ten years have witnessed a development of interest in Iowa library advancement, which is now bearing excellent fruit in almost every county. In our judgment this is due far more to the writings and other efforts of Mrs. North than to all other instrumentalities. Such results always come through an enlightened public sentiment, and in this case the need of praise for its development should be largely given to her. She has gone hence, but her works will live long after her to bless the coming generations. A more extended notice of Mrs. North's life and public services may be found in Vol. II, pp. 540-49, 3d Series of The Annals.

Charles E. Garst was born in Dayton, Ohio, August 21, 1853; he died in Tokio, Japan, December 28, 1898. His family came to Iowa and settled in Boone during his boyhood. He grew up on his father's farm adjoining that city, receiving his education in the public schools and the Iowa Agricultural College. He was appointed a cadet at West Point Military Academy in 1872, graduating in 1876. He was promoted to a second lieutenant in the 15th U. S. Infantry the day after his graduation. His service in the army was wholly on the western frontier and continued until January 10, 1884, when he resigned and became a missionary of the Christian church in Japan, whither he went at once. He returned to Iowa in 1891, where he was detained two years on account of the illness of his eldest son.
Resuming his missionary labors in 1893 he remained in Japan until his lamented death. He was a man of large ability and the most thorough culture, devoted and enthusiastic in his missionary work in which he bade fair to become distinguished. He was a brother of Hon. Warren Garst, at present State Senator from the Carroll District. The Japan Evangelist for February, 1899, presents his portrait and devotes a dozen pages to tributes to his memory.

James L. Scott, a pioneer resident of the State, was born in Giles county, Tennessee, January 12, 1813; he died at Des Moines January 10, 1899. Mr. Scott came to Iowa territory in 1837, locating a claim in Lee county. He soon afterward went to Galena, Illinois, and engaged in a successful lead mining business. In 1839 he returned to Iowa and settled in Jefferson county, where he entered 320 acres of land. He was elected the first sheriff of that county and officiated at the first government land sales. He removed to Des Moines in 1857, where in early days he was a member of the city council and took an active part in public affairs. Mr. Scott was a brother of the late Alexander Scott, one of the founders of Des Moines, whose great generosity in early days should not be forgotten. He donated to the State of Iowa nearly all of the grounds upon which the capitol now stands, and the land known as Governor's Square. He also gave $6,000 toward the erection of the old capitol building and gave to Des Moines its market square. He afterwards died in poverty, and although this brother had repeatedly petitioned the State legislature for a suitable monument to mark the neglected grave of Iowa's benefactor, the request was overlooked.

William B. Street was born at Shawneetown, Illinois, July 12, 1821; he died at Ormond, Florida, March 17, 1899. He was the son of General J. M. Street, the distinguished Indian Agent. While he was still a boy his father reside for a time at Prairie du Chien; later at Rock Island, and later still at Agency City, Wapello county. He saw Jefferson Davis as a lieutenant in the army, and personally knew Blackhawk, Keokuk and other distinguished Indian chiefs. Gen. Street died in 1840 and was buried at Agency City. His son engaged in merchandising for several years, having stores at Agency City, Oskaloosa and Pella, at the same time. He settled at Oskaloosa in 1854, and engaged in banking with the late Judge William H. Seevers. In the financial revulsion of 1857 their bank failed, leaving them badly in debt. From this time forward he was employed the most of his time on a salary, being an expert book-keeper. After 1890 he spent the most of his time at Ormond, Florida. Mr. Street wrote a biographical sketch of his father which may be found in Vol. II of The Annals, 3d Series, pp. 81-105.

Col. Dwight Bannister was born in New York, February 3, 1833; he died in Ottumwa, January 30, 1899. His father was a veteran of the war of 1812. Col. Bannister had been a prominent figure in Ohio politics before his removal to Iowa. He served as the private secretary of Salmon P. Chase when that illustrious statesman was governor of Ohio, and accompanied him when he stumped the country for Lincoln in 1860. At the outbreak of the war, he joined an Ohio battery. In 1862 he was brevetted Colonel for special bravery at Blooming Gap. When Chase was appointed Secretary of War Mr. Bannister was given the position of paymaster in the army, and he continued to hold that place in the regular army for some years. After the war he was admitted to the bar and at one time practiced law at Urbana with Judge Robert Fulton. From 1875 he resided in Ottumwa and had been identified with the life and growth of that city.
EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

Mrs. Adaline M. Swain was born at Bath, New Hampshire, May 25, 1820; she died at Odin, Illinois, February 8, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Swain settled at Fort Dodge as early as 1857 or 1858, where they became well known throughout northwestern Iowa. They were highly cultured people and made their home a literary center. They possessed excellent taste and judgment in literature and art, and their collections were large and interesting. A distinguished lady of Fort Dodge says of Mrs. Swain: "She was an intellectual, beautiful woman. When I was a young girl I admired and loved her as a superior personality, and I never had reason to change my opinion of her." Mrs. Swain at an early day took a deep interest in the movement to secure laws enabling women to control their own property, and was also an influential advocate of the wider and higher education of her sex. She was an influential leader in charitable and benevolent work, and on all these accounts deserves to be kindly remembered.

Mrs. Mary Welles Gaylord, a native of Newington, Connecticut, died at Irvington, Nebraska, January 20, 1899, at the age of eighty-six. Mrs. Gaylord came to Iowa in territorial times, and in 1841 was married to Rev. Reuben Gaylord a pioneer Congregational preacher. She resided in Danville, Des Moines county, from 1839 to 1855, where her husband was in charge of a church. She then accompanied him across the State to Omaha, making the journey in a carriage. They were among the earliest settlers of that city, and in 1856 Mr. Gaylord organized its first Congregational church. Mrs. Gaylord was an able woman—a strong character—and shared her husband's indefatigable labors in behalf of the educational and religious welfare of Iowa and Nebraska. After his death in 1880, she published a valuable work entitled "Life and Labors of Reuben Gaylord."

Newton C. Ridenour was born in Campbell county, Tennessee, July 14, 1818, and died in Clarinda, Iowa, January 20, 1899. In 1856 Mr. Ridenour settled in Page county, where he resided the most of the time until his death. In 1860 he took an overland trip to Pike's Peak and the surrounding gold region. He served throughout the Civil War and was commissioned as 1st Lieutenant. In 1868 he became the editor of The Page County Democrat, and for many years was one of the influential men of his party. In 1872 he was a delegate to the national democratic convention; in 1874 he served as sergeant-at-arms in the State legislature; in 1880 he was appointed postmaster at Clarinda; later he was made inspector of foreign immigration, by President Cleveland. Mr. Ridenour was a prominent Mason.

Rev. Ebenezer Alden was born at Randolph, Massachusetts, August 1819, and died in January, 1899, at his home in Marshfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Alden was a lineal descendant of John Alden and one of the famous "Iowa Band" that came from Andover, Massachusetts, in 1843, to the new territory of Iowa. He was one of the pioneer preachers of Cedar county from 1843 to 1848, and founded the church at Tipton. He returned to the East and in 1850 took charge of a church at Marshfield, Massachusetts, where he spent the remainder of his life, being pastor emeritus at the time of his death. Daniel Webster was one of his parishioners and in 1852 Mr. Alden preached the funeral sermon of that illustrious statesman.

William C. Berry, a pioneer of Des Moines county, Iowa, dating from 1835, died recently at the home of his daughter at Circleville, Kansas. He was born in Tennessee, June 28, 1811. When twenty-two years of age he engaged in the Black Hawk War. Soon after he came to Des Moines
county, Iowa, and purchased a claim of 160 acres of land, on which he resided sixty-four years. This land Mr. Berry reclaimed from a wilderness inhabited by wild beasts and roving bands of Indians and made it one of the famous farms of the county. He was the first subscriber to the Burlington Hawkeye, his subscription dating back to the year 1839. He was a public spirited man and held several township offices.

Demas McFarland Moninger died at his home in Galvin, Iowa, February 5, 1899. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1833, and removed to Iowa in the fifties. He first settled in Bangor township but for the last thirty-five years had resided nine miles northwest of Marshalltown, where in 1881 a postoffice called Galvin was established at his house. The office of postmaster was held by Mr. Moninger up to the time of his death. He was one of the oldest and best known residents of Marshall county, and had a reputation throughout the State as a fine stock breeder, his specialty being Shorthorn cattle. He also represented Marshall county in the Fifteenth General Assembly.

Andrew G. Henderson was born at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, January 24, 1823; he died in Spokane, Washington, February 16, 1899. Mr. Henderson was one of the pioneer newspaper men of the West. In the forties he worked as an assistant on the Galena, Illinois, Gazette. He was for some years connected with the press at Dubuque, but later on removed to Maquoketa, and with Peter Moriarity established the Maquoketa Excelsior. While in this office the publishers secured the State printing, Peter Moriarity having been elected State printer in 1855. When the war broke out Mr. Henderson joined Co. F, 31st Iowa Vol. Infantry, and served for three years as 1st lieutenant of his company.

Daniel L. Shorey, a distinguished member of the Chicago bar, died in that city March 4, 1899. Mr. Shorey was born in Jonesboro, Maine, January 31, 1824. In 1856 he removed to Davenport where he resided for twelve years. During this time he took an active interest in public affairs. He served as city attorney and as president of the board of education. On removing to Chicago he became one of its influential citizens. He was a member of the Chicago public library board, and a personal friend of the librarian, the late Dr. Pool. He was for some time a member of the city council, and was an active member of the board of trustees of the University of Chicago.

George P. McClelland one of Davenport's leading citizens, died in that city December 27, 1898. Major McClelland was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1842. He served with distinction in the Civil War, and was brevetted Major for gallant conduct at the battle of Five Forks, at which place he was badly wounded. After 1867 he resided in Davenport, where he was organizer and president of the Loan, Building and Savings Association. He was a member of the Academy of Sciences and a prominent Mason.

Francis Edward Malloy was born November 7, 1869, in Ossian, Iowa; he died in Dubuque, January 31, 1899. Mr. Malloy was a young man of unusual ability and promise, and was considered one of the ablest lawyers of the State. He had made a brilliant record as an orator and statesman. In 1897 he was elected to the State senate on the democratic ticket, and had still a session to serve in that body at the time of his early death.
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.