

Aaron Brown

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that portion of the State. He served as a representative in the General Assembly of 1876, and in that year was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, where he supported Samuel J. Tilden for the presidential nomination. In the convention of 1884, to which he was a delegate at large, he was a warm advocate of the nomination of Grover Cleveland. He presided over the Good Roads Convention in Chicago in 1892. In that great movement he was a leading actor for many years. He was long a working and deeply interested member of the school board of Clinton. Governor Kirkwood appointed him a trustee of the State Normal School. He was one of the trusted men of his party throughout his more than fifty years in Iowa, one who always enjoyed the fullest confidence of the opposition.

SEYMOUR DWIGHT THOMPSON was born in Will county, Illinois, September 22, 1842; he died at his home in East Orange, New Jersey, August 12, 1904. At the breaking out of the civil war he enlisted in Company F, Third Iowa Infantry, at West Union, Iowa. He was soon appointed First Sergeant, serving in that capacity something over two years. In 1865 he was commissioned Captain of Company I, Third United States Heavy Artillery, in which rank he was mustered out at the end of the war, when barely twenty-one years of age. In 1868 he was admitted to the bar at Memphis, Tennessee. From 1881 to 1893 he was associate judge of the St. Louis Court of Appeals. He removed to Brooklyn, New York, in 1898, and opened a law office in New York City. Judge Thompson became pre-eminent as a law writer. His works are accepted as standards by the legal profession everywhere. He also wrote "Recollections with the Third Iowa Regiment," which was published in 1864. He had it in contemplation to revise this work for another edition. He was appointed by President Roosevelt a delegate to the Congress of Law and Jurists which met at St. Louis, in September. The law journals of the United States and Canada for September, 1904, presented elaborate notices of the life and works of this illustrious Iowa soldier, jurist and author. *The Chicago Legal News* concluded its article as follows: "Perhaps the whole life of Seymour D. Thompson may be summed up by saying that he preserved in an age steadily tending to moral compromises and the obliteration of the essential distinction between right and wrong, the integrity of the old Roman; that he illustrated in his every act and thought the best principles of American democracy; and that his success in his chosen profession clearly shows that ability and industry, coupled with high character, still triumph, as they have always triumphed, over the most adverse circumstances."

AARON BROWN was born in Marion county, Mississippi, June 7, 1822; he died in Mitchellville, Iowa, July 2, 1904. His father was a southerner and a slave-holder, but about 1825 removed to the north and freed his slaves. A brother became a free state candidate for the Kansas legislature and was brutally murdered on election day, on account of his anti-slavery principles. In 1844 Aaron Brown removed to Michigan and began the study of medicine. In 1849 he made the overland trip to California and remained there until 1852, when he located in Fayette county, Iowa, which was for many years his home. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted in Company F, Third Iowa Infantry; on the organization of the Company he was elected Second Lieutenant; in 1862 he was promoted to the Captaincy. In 1863 he was chosen Colonel and commanded the regiment through the siege of Vicksburg and led the attack on Jackson, Mississippi, where he was wounded. He was also wounded at the battle of Blue Mills Landing in September, 1861. Dr. Brown was a member of the State Senate in the 6th and 7th General Assemblies, and a member of the House in the 12th and 13th. He was Register of the State Land Office for two terms, including

the years 1871-74. In writing of him, Col. G. W. Crosley says: "As soldier and citizen his record is without a stain, and in the history of Iowa his name deserves a prominent place." When Col. Brown fell wounded at Jackson, Mississippi, Col. Crosley, then Major of the regiment, took his place in leading the terrible charge.

CHARLES W. IRISH was born in New York City, February 11, 1834; he died at Gold Creek, Nevada, September 27, 1904. He was a pioneer settler in Iowa City, a brother of Hon. John P. Irish, the well-known Iowa legislator, who removed to California several years ago. Gen. Charles W. Irish was by profession a civil engineer. In this capacity he was connected with the projection and laying out of many lines of railroad in this and surrounding states and farther west. He was especially distinguished as a friend of the State University, to the collections of which he was one of the most liberal contributors. Under President Cleveland he was chief of the Bureau of Irrigation, and at one time deputy mining surveyor of Nevada. He organized the Iowa Engineering Society, and the Agassiz Natural History Society of Iowa City. Latterly, and at the time of his death, he was the general manager of some of the great mining interests in Nevada. Many years ago he was city engineer of Iowa City, and the first county surveyor of Tama county. His life was full of useful works which were continued to the end of his days. Several of the leading Iowa journals in the last days of September and the early days of October gave liberally of their space to biographical sketches of this useful and eminently distinguished man.

GEORGE FRAZEE was born in New York City, April 1, 1821; he died in Burlington, Iowa, December 8, 1904. In 1843 he removed to Danville, Kentucky, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar. In 1849 he settled in Burlington, Iowa, which place has since been his home. At the time of his death he was the oldest member of the Burlington bar. He had held many important offices, having served as justice of the peace, United States court commissioner, collector of customs, and judge of the police court. For many years, including the period of the early sixties, Judge Frazee was an editorial writer on *The Burlington Hawkeye*. He was the author of several pamphlets; the best known being "Our Judges," sketches of the judges of the first judicial district of Iowa, from the territorial organization to November, 1895. He wrote for *THE ANNALS* (Vol. IV, pp. 118-137) a detailed and highly interesting account of a "Fugitive Slave Case," in Burlington, Iowa. He was also the author of a pamphlet giving an account of another Iowa fugitive slave case, which was copied in full in *THE ANNALS* (Vol. VI, pp. 9-45).

EDWARD MARTINDALE was born at Sandy Hill, New York, February 4, 1817; he died in San Diego, California, July 14, 1904. Coming to Des Moines in 1833 to practice law, he was for many years a prominent resident of the city. He was at one time Chancellor of the Diocese of Iowa, a member of Crocker Post, G. A. R. and of the Loyal Legion of the Commandery of Iowa. His family was a distinguished one in New York state, his father serving in Congress twelve years. His own education was received in Union College, Schenectady, New York, where he graduated in 1836. He practiced law in the city of New York from 1840-83, with the exception of the time he served in the rebellion. He was in many severe battles as Lieut.-Colonel of the 26th New Jersey regiment, was later promoted to Colonel, and after the capture of Richmond served as military governor of Petersburg, Virginia. On several occasions he refused the rank of brigadier-general. A few years ago he left Iowa to make his home in California.

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