

Joseph Cramer

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Joseph Cramer." *The Annals of Iowa* 4 (1900), 480-481.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol4/iss6/29>

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he marched with Sherman "from Atlanta to the Sea." He read law in Champaign, Illinois, after his return to civil life, subsequently practicing in Missouri and Michigan. In 1872 he came to Iowa and settled at Emmetsburg. He soon became one of the leading business men of Northwestern Iowa. He met with some serious reverses, but was rapidly retrieving his losses when overtaken by the disease which ended his useful and active life. He was chosen mayor of Emmetsburg in 1886. *The Palo Alto Reporter* said of him: "Mr. Ormsby was a splendid citizen in every way. He was a public spirited man and always contributed liberally to every good cause, and any cause that had for its object the advancement of the interests of Emmetsburg or Palo Alto county found always a champion in him and a liberal contribution from his pocketbook."

JOHN LEONARD was born in Knox county, Ohio, August 20, 1825; he died at Winterset, Iowa, March 23, 1900. He was raised on a farm, attending the common schools and Granville Seminary. He studied law and was admitted to the bar at Wooster, Ohio, in 1852. He removed to Winterset the following year and resided in that town until his death. He had held the office of surveyor of Monroe county, Ohio, and after coming to Winterset, was chosen district attorney. In 1873 he was elected judge of the Fifth Judicial District, which position he filled four years. But it was as a practicing lawyer that Judge Leonard became best known throughout Southwestern Iowa. He was a leader in the Baptist church for many years, and a liberal giver to that organization and for educational purposes. The bar of his county adopted resolutions of respect to his memory and attended his funeral in a body.

HENRY W. EVEREST was born at North Hudson, New York, May 10, 1831; he died at Des Moines, Iowa, May 4, 1900. He was educated at Bethany and Oberlin Colleges, Ohio. After his college days he devoted the remainder of his life to teaching. After successful work in several colleges he was called to Drake University some ten years ago, where he was placed at the head of the Bible Department. He was a schoolmate at one time with the late President Garfield, and was supposed to be one of the last survivors of the statesman's immediate youthful associates. He had become widely known as an author, having published "The Divine Denomination—A Text Book of Christian Evidence," "Science and Pedagogy of Ethics" and "Higher Education."

JOHN HAMILTON DRAKE was born in North Carolina, July 5, 1828; he died at Chicago, May 27, 1900. The deceased was a brother of Ex-Governor Francis M. Drake of Iowa. His family removed to Fort Madison in the year 1837, where he grew up to manhood, receiving but the limited education which could be acquired in the home schools of that day. He settled in Drakeville, Davis county, where he entered into business as a merchant, in which he continued until 1885. He then removed to Albia, where he afterward resided and became a banker. He was a wealthy and respected citizen, and one of the leading and most influential members of the Christian church of this State, a worthy coadjutor of his distinguished brother in religious and educational work.

JOSEPH CRAMER was born in Strasburg, Pa., April 22, 1813; he died at Clarinda, Iowa, April 7, 1900. He settled at Clarinda in 1857, where he resided until his death. He served as a sergeant in the Fourth Indiana Infantry in the Mexican war, and upon the outbreak of the civil war went to the front as captain of Co. K, Fourth Iowa Infantry. He remained in the service two years, having in the meantime been promoted to the grade of major. He had been a member of the Methodist Episcopal

church for seventy years. He filled all offices open to laymen with energy, faithfulness and great liberality. "His life leaves a fragrance of Christian love to abide with his family and friends."

ABNER DAVISON was born near Cooperstown, New York, January 3, 1820; he died at Davenport, Iowa, May 17, 1900. Mr. Davison was educated at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., graduating in 1845. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1852. Coming west in 1854 he settled at Davenport where he afterwards resided. He early won a place among the first lawyers of central Iowa. He had as partners Hon. James T. Lane, Hon. Joseph R. Lane, and Mr. True, another distinguished member of the Scott county bar. He only retired from active business the first of the present year, after he had passed his 80th birthday.

JOHN E. KURTZ was born near Lancaster, Pa., in 1817; he died at Lisbon, Iowa, May 14, 1900. Mr. Kurtz settled in the eastern part of Linn county in 1848, and was the founder of the town of Lisbon, becoming one of the leading business men of that region. He was one of the representatives of that county in the general assembly of 1856—the last session in Iowa City. He was active and energetic in business life until a few years ago. *The Lisbon Herald* of May 17, 1900, contained an elaborate and appropriate biographical sketch and a fine portrait of "Father Kurtz," the pioneer settler of the town.

JOHN S. BRIGGS was born in Cambridge, Ohio, in 1839; he died at Omaha, Nebraska, May 31, 1900. He was the son of Ansel Briggs, the first governor of the State of Iowa. We have few particulars concerning his life, except that he settled at Omaha in 1856, where he was long connected with the newspaper press. This veteran printer-publisher issued the first directory of the city of Omaha. A pioneer settler of that locality, he took a prominent part in laying out the city and starting it upon its marvelous career of progress and development.

WILLIAM WILSON was born in Concord, Pa., February 8, 1820; he died at Keota Iowa, March 22, 1900. Mr. Wilson came west in 1854 and settled at Washington, Iowa, where he resided the most of the years afterward. *The Press* speaks of him as an intelligent and highly estimable man—"in religion a United Presbyterian, but a very liberal one; in politics a Democrat; in social life a citizen of the world, affable with all." This pioneer settler was elected State senator in 1875, serving the regular term of four years.

WILLIAM A. MORRISON was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, March 10, 1838; he died at Iowa City, June 5, 1900. He came with his parents to Iowa in 1854, when they settled on a farm near Marshalltown. They afterward removed to Johnson county in 1879, where he engaged in business. He was one of the most active citizens of that busy town, serving as a member of the city council four years and as mayor two years. He was also connected with the old State Bank at Iowa City.

J. M. SLOSSON was born in New York, May 19, 1835; he died at his home in Kensett township, Worth county, Iowa, March 29, 1900. Mr. Slosson was an early and prosperous settler of Worth county, owning a finely cultivated farm of 600 acres. He was elected as an independent member of the lower house of the State legislature in 1887, serving the following session. During recent years his failing health withdrew him from public affairs.

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