

J. K. Graves, J. Fred Meyers, George E. Waring

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age. Had she lived until the 24th of December she would have seen her 128th birthday. She was born a slave near Richmond, Prince Edward county, Virginia, and was owned by one Richard Miller, a corn and wheat planter. When Mr. Miller died he bequeathed her to his wife, Mrs. Becky Miller, who emigrated to Kentucky, taking her slaves with her. Mrs. Miller married a man by the name of Bard White, from whom she afterwards separated. Mrs. Alexander was bought by the husband of Mrs. Miller's daughter, a rich and aristocratic southern planter by the name of Miller Alexander. The subject of this notice married another slave by the name of Robert Alexander. After many vicissitudes she came to Keokuk, where she found a daughter from whom she had been long separated and with whom she spent her remaining days. The papers of Keokuk paid fine tributes to the memory of this remarkable woman, who was highly esteemed by all who knew her.

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HON. FRANCIS SPRINGER, President of the Iowa Constitutional Convention of 1857, died at his residence, at Columbus Junction, Louisa county, October 2, 1898. He was born in Portland, Maine, April 15, 1811. For a full account of his life and public services the reader is referred to articles in the ANNALS, which are accompanied by two of his portraits. (See Vol. II, pp. 569-585; Vol. III, pp. 32-46). Forty years ago Judge Springer was one of the most prominent and highly esteemed men in this State. He retained the affectionate regard of all who knew him throughout his long and useful life. Chief Justice George G. Wright, around whose honored name cluster so many pleasant memories, spoke of him as "one of the best nisi prius judges" he had ever known. His associates in the Constitutional Convention of 1857 were unanimous in their estimate of his fairness, impartiality and unfailing courtesy. He was certainly "a grand old man." His death severs one of the few remaining links connecting the present with the far past of Iowa.

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LEVI S. GATES was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, May 23, 1838; he died at Omaha, Nebraska, October 11, 1898. Mr. Gates had resided near Manchester, Iowa, during the last forty years, and had become one of the best known and most prominent dairymen in the State. He was appointed State Dairy Commissioner by Gov. L. M. Shaw at the expiration of the term of Hon. W. K. Boardman. Mr. Gates was a member of the house during the session of the Twenty-first General Assembly, where he had charge of the bill for the act creating the office of State Dairy Commissioner. He was also largely instrumental in the formation of the State Dairy Association, in 1875, and was quite prominent in all matters connected with the agricultural interests of our State. He had gone to Omaha to attend the session of the National Dairy Association on the Exposition grounds, and while addressing that body dropped dead from apoplexy.

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FRANK M. GOODYKOONTZ was born at Anderson, Indiana, April 16, 1842; he died at Mitchell, South Dakota, November 24, 1898. His parents settled at Waukon, Iowa, about the year 1856. He attended only the common schools and was to a great extent a self-educated man. He was admitted to the bar at Waukon at the age of twenty-one, and practiced at that place and also at Le Roy, Minnesota, Postville, Lime Springs and Mason City. At the latter place he resided several years and became widely known throughout Iowa as an eloquent pleader and most successful lawyer. He was elected to our State senate in 1880 for four years, and at the close of his first session resigned and settled in Chamberlain, South Dakota. He later on moved to Mitchell, where he spent the remainder of his life. He attained a high position and much influence in his new home and came very near an election as U. S. senator in 1897.

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