

## Isaac W. Griffith

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rank of Colonel. His last years had been very quiet, and he was well-nigh forgotten at the time of his death, save by the soldiers whom he had led in so many battles and hard marches. His surviving men have none but proud and kind recollections of "Old A. J."

JUDGE SAMUEL MURDOCK was born near Pittsburg, Pa., March 13, 1817, and died at his residence in Elkader, Iowa, January 26, 1897. He came to Garnavillo, Clayton county, Iowa, and bought a farm in the year 1843. He remained there until 1876, when he removed to Elkader, which was his home until the day of his death. He was well known as one of the early legislators and jurists of Iowa. He was elected to the last territorial legislature in 1845, and to the State legislature in 1869. In the spring of 1855 he was elected judge of the Tenth Judicial District, which included ten counties in northeastern Iowa. Aside from his professional culture Judge Murdock possessed a wide knowledge of agriculture, horticulture, geology and natural history. Clayton and Allamakee counties had been the home of the mound-builders and no man in our State has ever made more thorough investigations in that direction. His interesting collection of pre-historic stone implements was purchased by the State and is now in the Historical Department. He also owned a large-geological collection which had been made by himself. He was a ready writer and very familiar with the early pioneers, not only of his own county but of the State at large. No man in Iowa has written finer or more truly appreciative biographical sketches of pioneers whom he knew than Judge Murdock. Really these sketches possessed so much merit, that they ought to be gathered into some permanent form of publication. They would make a valuable book. He was a genial, abiding, true friend, surpassed by very few as a conversationalist, and always a pleasant man to meet. No one could pass an hour in his company without being benefited by his large stores of information. This is but the briefest statement of his many excellent qualities. We trust that some friend more thoroughly informed than the writer, will yet prepare a biographical sketch for THE ANNALS, which shall do justice to the memory of that grand old man.

COL. ISAAC W. GRIFFITH was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, April 2, 1820, and died in Des Moines, January 6, 1897. For nearly forty years he was one of the most familiar figures in the capital city. He had enjoyed the acquaintance of most of the distinguished lawyers, legislators, jurists, soldiers and pioneers of early Iowa. In 1846 he volunteered under the first call for troops for the Mexican war, and was made a sergeant in the 15th U. S. Infantry. He participated in many battles and skirmishes, and at Churubusco lost his right arm at the shoulder. Disabled for most of the active vocations of life, Col. Griffith, as was eminently just and proper, was almost constantly in public employment. He served in the Legislature of 1849, as a member from Lee county, and deserves the distinguished credit of having introduced and secured the passage of the Iowa Homestead law. He first came to Des Moines with the appointment of Register of the U. S. Land Office in 1858, in which position he served with entire satisfaction to all with whom he had business relations. Despising no useful employment, when his term expired, he became the toll-gate keeper on the old wooden bridge which crossed the river at Walnut street. He was at times bailiff in the State and United States Courts. From his kindly nature, strict honesty, no less than from the serious character of his disability, he always possessed the sympathy of his wide circle of acquaintances. When Judge Mason's portrait was placed in the Supreme Court rooms, May 22, 1895, the compliment of unveiling it was accorded to Col. Griffith, who had long served as bailiff in his courts. From this brief statement it will be seen

that his life was one of rare usefulness. "Old Churubusco," as he was familiarly called, went to his final rest a truly historical character, universally respected and beloved.

ELIJAH SELLS was born in Franklin county, Ohio, February 14, 1814, and died at Salt Lake City, March 13, 1897. He was descended from revolutionary stock, his grandfather on the paternal side having been killed at Yorktown, and his great-grandfather in "Mad Anthony Wayne's" charge at Stony Point. Mr. Sells came to Iowa in 1841, and settled in Muscatine county where he engaged in the manufacture of pottery. He was elected to the first State Legislature in 1846 and again in 1852. At the first Republican State Convention in 1856 he was nominated for Secretary of State. He was elected and served in this office six years. In a subsequent State Convention he came within a few votes of the nomination for Governor, and, possibly, would have received the nomination, but for the fact that he withdrew his name, prematurely, as his friends believed. He afterwards went into the Navy as paymaster. After the war, settled at Salt Lake City, and sometime later was appointed Secretary of the Territory by President Harrison. This last office he held four years. During the time Mr. Sells resided in Iowa he was one of our foremost citizens—"one of the most influential men the State has ever had in public life." He was "a man of wide and varied knowledge, genial and cordial in his manners, blessed with 'troops of friends,' a shrewd far-seeing politician, possessing business habits and executive ability of a high order." THE ANNALS for October, 1896, contained two articles relating to Mr. Sells, one of which was from the pen of his life-long friend, Mr. John M. Davis of Des Moines. To these articles the reader is referred for further details of the life-work of Mr. Sells.

MRS. SARAH CAMPBELL was born in the county of Tyrone, Ireland, in 1815, and died at her home in Bloomfield township, Winneshiek county, January 13, 1897, having survived her husband, Hamilton Campbell, several years. This family camped on the farm where they spent their lives, June 7, 1848. Mr. Campbell had come out from the Green Isle as early as 1829, and had been a private in Captain Gear's (father of Ex-Governor and United States Senator John H. Gear) company in the Black Hawk war. He was in the same division with Abraham Lincoln. Returning to Ireland in 1837, he was married to Miss Sarah Campbell. Three years later they came to this country, landing at New York, and at once starting west. Their first settlement was in Jackson county, near Maquoketa, later removing to Dubuque. But they eventually found their way to Winneshiek county, as stated. We glean these particulars from *The Decorah Republican* of January 21, which pays a beautiful tribute to the memory of this intelligent and praiseworthy pioneer family, the earliest settlers in that county.

HON. JOHN McHUGH died in Cresco January 30, 1897. In the death of Mr. McHugh Iowa loses a noble man and one of her most respected and worthy citizens. A native of Canada, he removed to Iowa in 1867, and has for many years been identified with the banking and political interests of the State. In 1875 he organized the bank of Lawler and later the Howard county bank in Cresco. He was appointed National Bank Examiner by President Harrison and was found to be eminently qualified for the duties of that position. In 1879 he was elected to represent Chickasaw county in the State Legislature; in 1884 he served as one of the presidential electors, and in 1888 he was a candidate for Congress from the 4th district, but defeated in the convention by one-fourth of a vote. He has been active in every political contest for the last twenty years, his services as a ready speaker and able campaigner being much in demand. He was known over

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