

Theodore DeTar, Martin D. McHenry, Erastus G.
Morgan

ISSN 0003-4827



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Recommended Citation

"Theodore DeTar, Martin D. McHenry, Erastus G. Morgan." *The Annals of Iowa* 1 (1894), 341-344.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol1/iss4/16>

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BENTON J. HALL, of Burlington, died at his home on the 5th of January. He was the only son of Hon. J. C. Hall, who was one of the ablest legislators and lawyers in Iowa thirty years ago. The son graduated from Miami University in 1855, and at once began his law studies in his father's office. He was admitted to practice in all the courts of the State in 1857. He was City Solicitor of Burlington when a young man, and in 1872 was elected to the lower house of the Iowa Legislature. He took a prominent part in the revision of the statutes and the enactment of the Code of 1873. In 1881 he was elected to the Senate and during his term was recognized as one of the ablest members of that body. In 1884 he was nominated for Congress and elected, being the first Democratic Representative from that District in thirty years. In 1886 he was appointed by President Cleveland, Commissioner of Patents and conducted the affairs of that office with distinguished ability to the end of his term. The Burlington *Hawkeye* says of him: "Among men of his own years, he was universally accorded the highest station as a lawyer, citizen, statesman and gentleman; by the men of younger years, who grew up from boyhood under his own eye, he was looked up to as a model of every ennobling grace of mind and character. As a lawyer he was distinguished for his discriminating and logical mind. He was thoroughly grounded in law, and at the bar stood pre-eminent. He always treated an opponent with courtesy; bitterness had no place in his heart, or public utterances. Mr. Hall was learned in geological lore, and assisted at one time in the prosecution of one of the most valuable geological surveys ever made in Iowa. He also contributed largely to the preparation of the published records." He was in the full vigor of his intellectual powers when prostrated by the illness which terminated his life at the age of fifty-nine.

HON. HAWKINS TAYLOR, a well known pioneer lawmaker of Iowa, died at his residence in Washington, D. C., on the 15th of November. He was born in Barren County, Ky., November 15, 1811, and died on his eighty-second birthday. In 1836 he came to Iowa, which was then a part of Wisconsin Territory, and settling in Lee County, was one of the founders of the town of West Point. In 1838 he was chosen to the House of the first Territorial Legislature of Iowa. In 1857 he became Mayor of Keokuk, and was instrumental in projecting many important public enterprises for building up that city. He was a delegate from Iowa to the convention at Chicago which nominated Mr. Lincoln for the Presidency in 1860. He was appointed Postoffice Inspector for Kansas by President Lincoln in 1863, and held this position until 1865. During this time he also served on the Commission with Judge Charles Sherman, the brother of Senator Sherman, and Colonel Russell, who were appointed to settle the claims preferred against the Government by the Home Guards of Missouri. In 1868 he removed to Washington, D. C., where he remained until his death. Hawkins Taylor probably had a wider acquaintance with Iowa men and Iowa history, than any other man living, with the exceptions of Theodore S. Parvin and George G. Wright. He never lost his interest in our State, and has written historical sketches of early days in Iowa for the public journals for more than thirty years. It is known to his friends that he had a large amount of manuscript ready for the press before his death, relating to his recollection of Iowa men and affairs of pioneer days. It is to be hoped that some

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