

John M. Kent

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became a democrat. He was a man of ability and fine culture, and a ready and effective speaker. A leading member of Lodge No. 164, I. O. O. F., he was buried with the honors of the Order.

EX-STATE SENATOR JOHN M. KENT died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Elijah, near Clarence, Iowa, Aug 21, 1896. Mr. Kent was born in Rockbridge county, Va., Nov. 14, 1814. He came with his parents to Ohio at the age of four, and remained there twenty-four years. In 1852 he settled in Cedar county, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life. To fill a vacancy Mr. Kent was elected state senator in 1857, and re-elected in 1859. At the breaking out of the war he took much interest and aided in enlistments, and in 1864 was appointed army vote commissioner. This pioneer of Cedar county was an influential legislator, a useful, exemplary citizen, taking a leading part in all movements for the development of the country and the betterment of society.

REV. RICHARD B. GRAFF, of Marengo, died at his residence in that city, on the 24th of August, 1896, from old age. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1817. Coming to Iowa he settled on the site of Marengo in 1845, entering the land upon which the city stands, as a homestead. He was admitted to the bar, but later went into the ministry, becoming widely noted as an advocate of temperance. In his youth he was a classmate of Bayard Taylor, at the Union Academy, Philadelphia, and their intimate personal friendship then begun continued during the lifetime of the illustrious traveler, diplomat and poet. Mr. Graff was himself a poet of more than local reputation.

CAPTAIN PHILO G. C. MERRILL was born in Stowe, Vermont, October 16, 1816, and died in this city August 27, 1896. He came to Iowa in 1853, and settled in Warren county. Eleven years afterward he removed to Grinnell, but came here in 1895, to make his home with his son, Mr. John H. Merrill. He was a member of the Grand Army and the Loyal Legion. At one time he was active in politics, and represented Warren county in the 10th General Assembly.

DAVID ARMSTRONG was born in the county of Down, Ireland, March 13, 1816, and died at Dyersville, July 28, 1896. He was a contractor and builder, remarkable for the extent and excellent quality of his work. He furnished the highly polished granite in the State House, and built the first wing of the hospital for the insane at Independence. He also erected some of the best buildings in the city of Dubuque.

MRS. ISABEL HILLOCK MONTZHEIMER died at Webster City, September 5, 1896. She came to that town with her widowed mother, a brother and three sisters, in 1857 or 1858. She was one of the thoroughly educated and favorite pioneer teachers of Hamilton county, as also were two of her sisters. No family in that region occupied a higher place in the general esteem.

SETH W. SHAW, who made an honorable record in Company D, 6th Iowa Infantry, died at Centerville, July 19, 1896. He was born in Madison county, Indiana, March 11, 1842, and had resided in Iowa since his thirteenth year. He was in some twenty battles, including Shiloh, Corinth and several around Vicksburg.

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