

John H. Leavitt

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

---

Recommended Citation

"John H. Leavitt." *The Annals of Iowa* 7 (1907), 639-640.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol7/iss8/18>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

at the head of his class in 1870. When the civil war broke out Dr. Shrader was commissioned Captain of Co. H, 22d Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and some time afterwards was made surgeon of the regiment. During the Shenandoah campaign under General Sheridan he served as operating surgeon as he did in all the engagements in that region. He was for a time Hospital Director at Winchester, but was transferred to the South, serving at Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River, and the siege of Vicksburg. After the war he settled in Iowa City where he became a distinguished practitioner and an honored and public-spirited citizen. For twenty-eight years he was connected with the College of Medicine of the State University. He was physician of Mercy Hospital and health officer of Iowa City, a member of many medical societies in this and other states. He was for many years a member of the Iowa Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. He was a man of great public usefulness, both as educator and as physician and surgeon. His death was deeply deplored wherever he was known.

---

DANIEL O. FINCH was born in Unadilla, Otsego county, N. Y., June 6, 1829; he died in San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 27, 1906. His early education was received in Delaware Institute, Franklin, N. Y., in Oxford Academy, Chenango county, N. Y., and in the law office of Judge C. C. Noble, of Unadilla. He afterwards graduated from the Cherry Valley law school. In the spring of 1848, he began the practice of his profession in Monroe, Wisconsin. In 1851 he removed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he was associated with Judge George Greene: in 1853 he located in Des Moines, where he became one of the most prominent attorneys and democratic politicians of the State. He was first associated in the practice of the law with Judge Curtis Bates, afterwards with Judge Mitchell, Gen. M. M. Crocker, John A. Kasson and other prominent men. All through the prolonged litigation connected with the Des Moines River Land cases he was chief attorney for the River Land Company. He was for a time editor of the *Iowa Star*, one of the earliest papers published in the State. He was a candidate in 1854 for district judge, in 1857 for state senator, in 1862 for congress. He was delegate to the national democratic conventions in 1860, 1864, 1868, and was president of the State convention in 1867. From 1885 to 1889 he held the position of U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa. From the time that he came to Iowa until he retired from public life Mr. Finch was one of the most conspicuous leaders of the democratic party of this State. He enjoyed a high degree of personal popularity throughout his career.

---

JOHN H. LEAVITT was born in Franklin county, Mass., Oct. 11, 1831; he died in Waterloo, Iowa, Sept. 25, 1906. He was reared and educated in Massachusetts, and at the age of 23 started west, arriving in Waterloo in 1854, from which time he was a resident of that city until the day of his death. He was one of the early settlers of Black Hawk county, and its pioneer banker. His first two years in Iowa were occupied by the work of surveying and dealing in real estate. In 1856 he started a private bank, which was the foundation of the splendid institution of which he was the head at the time of his death. In 1898 the institution was reorganized as the Leavitt & Johnson National bank. This bank has enjoyed a wide reputation as one of the best financial institutions in Iowa. During all these years Mr. Leavitt has remained its president. He has always been known as one of the leading business men of Waterloo and Black Hawk county. He was public-spirited, participating in many of the large business enterprises of that region, and a man who always occupied a high place in the public confidence.

Those who knew him well did not consider him as especially anxious for political preferment, but he was nevertheless nominated and elected to the State senate, serving in the 14th General Assembly. Possessing a genial, social nature, enjoying the highest confidence as a business man, he was at once recognized as a leader in the senate. He was a charter member of the first Congregational church of Waterloo, with which he had been connected from the first.

---

JAMES D. YEOMANS was born in Bennington, Wyoming county, N. Y., April 21, 1845; he died in Washington, D. C., Oct. 31, 1906. He was educated in the public schools of New York. At the age of seventeen he was employed on the Erie railroad and for many years continued in the work of constructing railways. During the war the Government employed him in railroading in the South. In 1888 he removed to Onawa, Iowa, and engaged in stock-raising. He served as State senator in the 24th and 25th General Assemblies, but on April 2, 1894, before the expiration of his last term, President Cleveland appointed him a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission. He was re-appointed by President McKinley for a term of six years. While in Iowa Judge Yeomans was active commercially and organized the Sioux City Jobbers and Manufacturers' Association, the purpose of which was to prevent discrimination by railroads against Iowa cities in the making of rates.

---

JOHN DOWNEY was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1834; he died in Charleston township, Lee county, Iowa, Oct. 29, 1906. He migrated to this country at the age of twenty, settling at first in the city of New York. After two years he went to Ohio, and soon after came to Iowa settling in Lee county in the spring of 1857, where he spent the remainder of his life. He held many local positions of honor and trust, but his principal public service was as State senator, to which position he was elected in 1893, serving in the 25th and 26th General Assemblies. He was for twenty years justice of the peace of his township. He was all his life a democrat and his party honored him with several local distinctions.

---

EGBERT C. SUDLOW was born in Litchfield county, Conn., Sept. 8, 1834; he died in Newton, Iowa, Nov. 30, 1906. When a child he moved with his parents to Ohio; in 1856 he came to Scott county, Iowa; in 1869 he settled on a farm near Newton, where he became one of the influential and well-known citizens of Jasper county. He served as State senator in the 19th and 20th General Assemblies.

---

THOMAS W. JOHNSTON was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1840; he died in Dubuque, Iowa, Nov. 30, 1906. In early youth he came to America with his parents settling in Indiana and a few years later locating on a farm in Dubuque county. He represented Dubuque county in the 15th and 16th General Assemblies. For many years he was superintendent of the county poor farm.

Copyright of *Annals of Iowa* is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.