

Samuel J. Kirkwood, Thomas Mitchell, Thomas S.
Wright

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HON. THOMAS MITCHELL died at his home, in Mitchellville, on the 15th of July, 1894. He was born in Claremont, New Hampshire, March 3, 1816. His father died when he was but 16 years of age, and being left without a home, he hired out as a farm laborer. His education was limited to very moderate attendance at the country district schools. He came West in the fall of 1839, working awhile upon a farm near St. Charles, Missouri. In March, 1840, he came to Iowa, stopping at Keosauqua, where he again went to work. During that year he bought a "claim" in Jefferson county. In 1841 he was united in marriage with Elmira Swift, of Thedford, Vermont. In 1844 Mr. Mitchell removed to Polk County, and built a log cabin near Camp Creek, in which he entertained travelers. This was the first house built in the county outside of Fort Des Moines. In 1846 he entered 1,080 acres of land, in what is now Beaver township. Mr. Mitchell was present when the treaty was made with the Indians occupying this part of the country, by which they sold their lands to the General Government. In 1846 he was elected Sheriff of the county. In 1857 he was elected Representative in the Legislature, serving in the first General Assembly in Des Moines, where the new capital had been established and a State House erected the year before. In 1867 Mr. Mitchell founded the town of Mitchellville, and as long as he lived no saloon was ever permitted to exist in that thriving village. In 1873 he was elected to the State Senate, serving four years. He was largely instrumental in procuring the establishment of the "Girls' Industrial School" at Mitchellville. He was a prominent and influential member of the Universalist denomination during his whole mature life. Major E. H. Conger said of Thomas Mitchell that "for fifty years he had been the counselor of the leading men of the State. He had all this time a voice in the affairs of the State, for his advice was always sought. His influence over men was wonderful, and it was great because he never betrayed it. He gave to all good purposes; his life was one continuous charity, one continuous effort to do good. The poor were never sent away, and the weak never asked in vain from him." Prof. C. C. Cory said of him: "Poor in lands and money, but in all other respects the richest man that ever died in Iowa. In all that makes true riches, he was most rich. He bore a good name and won the respect and love of his fellow-men."

THOMAS S. WRIGHT, eldest son of Hon. George G. Wright, died in New York, from fracture of his skull by a fall, on the 26th of July. He was born in Keosauqua in 1845, and spent his boyhood in Van Buren County, finishing his school education at the State University. He enlisted in the Third Iowa Cavalry in March, 1864, and in November was promoted to Adjutant. In December of the same year he was made a prisoner near Memphis, and sent to Andersonville, where he suffered all the horrors of that infamous pen until the next spring. He never recovered from the effects of the inhuman treatment to which he was subjected, and to the end of his life patiently endured the broken health which so many of the survivors of that den of horrors must carry to their graves. After the war he took the law course in the State University. He entered upon the practice of his profession in Des Moines, as a partner of the late T. F. Withrow. He became an eminent lawyer, and upon the death of Mr. Withrow was appointed general counsel for the Rock Island Railroad Company, removing to Chicago, where he resided at the time of his lamented death. He made a brilliant record as a soldier, he was a profound lawyer, but he was most prized, by those who knew him best, for his fine personal and social qualities.

THOMAS LYMAN, who resided in an early day at Maquoketa, Jackson County, Iowa, died at his residence in Downer's Grove, Illinois, on the 6th day of July, at the age of 70 years. He was born in Vernon, Oneida County, N. Y., March 10, 1824, the son of Rev. Orange Lyman, who came West in 1839, and settled upon government land near Downer's Grove. When the family arrived at Chicago the total number of houses was but 450. In the winter of 1838-9 Thomas attended

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