

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

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HON. JEREMIAH H. MURPHY died at his Washington residence, on the 11th of December, 1893. He was born in Lowell, Mass., February 19, 1835. In 1849 his father moved his family to Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, and in 1852 settled in Iowa County, in this State, on a claim lying near Old Man's creek. Jeremiah Murphy was then seventeen years of age, a strong, energetic lad, and with a younger brother to drive the two yoke of oxen, they broke up 80 acres of prairie the first summer. In the winter following, the boys made enough rails and stakes to build an old-fashioned "worm fence" around a quarter section of the new farm. In 1854 Jeremiah entered the Law Department of the State University, at Iowa City, and completed a three years course. He then secured a position in the law office of William Smyth, of Marion, and a few months later was admitted to practice. He soon after formed a partnership with H. M. Martin, of Marengo, where the firm carried on a successful business for nine years, when Mr. Murphy removed to Davenport. He was always an ardent Democrat, and was a delegate from Iowa to the Democratic National Convention in 1864 and again in 1868. In 1873 he was elected to the State Senate, from Scott County, serving four years. In 1876 he was nominated for Congress against the veteran Republican leader, Hon. Hiram Price, but was defeated at the election. In 1881 Mr. Murphy was again the Democratic candidate, and this time was elected to Congress, serving four years. His principal work in that body was the promotion of the Hennepin canal scheme, for the success of which he worked with untiring zeal. He never ceased his labor until an appropriation was secured for that great project which is to connect Lake Michigan with the Mississippi river. He won a national reputation as the chief promoter of the Hennepin canal, and lived to see the great work inaugurated by act of Congress.

HON. SAMUEL A. RUSSELL, one of the well known pioneers of Washington county, Iowa, died at the home of his son in Nebraska, September 28. He was born in Baltimore, Md., November 21, 1816, went to Ohio when a young man and read law with Edwin M. Stanton, afterwards Lincoln's War Secretary during the rebellion. In 1846 he was elected to the Ohio Legislature as a Whig and served two terms. In 1850 he settled in Washington county, Iowa, and in 1853 was elected to the Legislature. In 1856 he was chosen one of the Presidential Electors on the Republican ticket. When the rebellion broke out he raised a company of which he was made captain and joined the 25th regiment; but was compelled to resign the first year on account of failing eyesight. He was again elected to the Legislature in 1863 and acquired an unenviable notoriety by making an abusive attack upon Annie Wittenmeyer, the grand woman who had charge of the sanitary work for Iowa soldiers in the field. The *Washington Press* says of this singular man: "Though a man of the most violent passions, irascible, abrupt, severe, he yet had a kind heart and lots of good streaks and traits. He was loyal to friends, a good lover and an equally good hater. One has to pity with a sore heart the sad life of the lonely old man. In his prime, he was a holy terror in debate. His wit had rattlesnake fangs, and when he struck an adversary in discussion, not even whisky could save him from the effects of Russell's awful bite."

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