

Elijah Sells

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.

Recommended Citation

"Elijah Sells." *The Annals of Iowa* 3 (1897), 78-78.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol3/iss1/19>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

that his life was one of rare usefulness. "Old Churubusco," as he was familiarly called, went to his final rest a truly historical character, universally respected and beloved.

ELIJAH SELLS was born in Franklin county, Ohio, February 14, 1814, and died at Salt Lake City, March 13, 1897. He was descended from revolutionary stock, his grandfather on the paternal side having been killed at Yorktown, and his great-grandfather in "Mad Anthony Wayne's" charge at Stony Point. Mr. Sells came to Iowa in 1841, and settled in Muscatine county where he engaged in the manufacture of pottery. He was elected to the first State Legislature in 1846 and again in 1852. At the first Republican State Convention in 1856 he was nominated for Secretary of State. He was elected and served in this office six years. In a subsequent State Convention he came within a few votes of the nomination for Governor, and, possibly, would have received the nomination, but for the fact that he withdrew his name, prematurely, as his friends believed. He afterwards went into the Navy as paymaster. After the war, settled at Salt Lake City, and sometime later was appointed Secretary of the Territory by President Harrison. This last office he held four years. During the time Mr. Sells resided in Iowa he was one of our foremost citizens—"one of the most influential men the State has ever had in public life." He was "a man of wide and varied knowledge, genial and cordial in his manners, blessed with 'troops of friends,' a shrewd far-seeing politician, possessing business habits and executive ability of a high order." THE ANNALS for October, 1896, contained two articles relating to Mr. Sells, one of which was from the pen of his life-long friend, Mr. John M. Davis of Des Moines. To these articles the reader is referred for further details of the life-work of Mr. Sells.

MRS. SARAH CAMPBELL was born in the county of Tyrone, Ireland, in 1815, and died at her home in Bloomfield township, Winneshiek county, January 13, 1897, having survived her husband, Hamilton Campbell, several years. This family camped on the farm where they spent their lives, June 7, 1848. Mr. Campbell had come out from the Green Isle as early as 1829, and had been a private in Captain Gear's (father of Ex-Governor and United States Senator John H. Gear) company in the Black Hawk war. He was in the same division with Abraham Lincoln. Returning to Ireland in 1837, he was married to Miss Sarah Campbell. Three years later they came to this country, landing at New York, and at once starting west. Their first settlement was in Jackson county, near Maquoketa, later removing to Dubuque. But they eventually found their way to Winneshiek county, as stated. We glean these particulars from *The Decorah Republican* of January 21, which pays a beautiful tribute to the memory of this intelligent and praiseworthy pioneer family, the earliest settlers in that county.

HON. JOHN McHUGH died in Cresco January 30, 1897. In the death of Mr. McHugh Iowa loses a noble man and one of her most respected and worthy citizens. A native of Canada, he removed to Iowa in 1867, and has for many years been identified with the banking and political interests of the State. In 1875 he organized the bank of Lawler and later the Howard county bank in Cresco. He was appointed National Bank Examiner by President Harrison and was found to be eminently qualified for the duties of that position. In 1879 he was elected to represent Chickasaw county in the State Legislature; in 1884 he served as one of the presidential electors, and in 1888 he was a candidate for Congress from the 4th district, but defeated in the convention by one-fourth of a vote. He has been active in every political contest for the last twenty years, his services as a ready speaker and able campaigner being much in demand. He was known over

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.