

Joshua Monroe Shaffer

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CARL WILHELM VON COELLN was born in Westphalia, Germany, August 31, 1830; he died at his home in New London, Iowa, April 20, 1913. He attended the public schools in his native town, later the gymnasium at Hereford and the University of Bonn. He served one year in the German army. In 1855 he emigrated to the United States, taking passage in a sailing vessel which reached New York after a voyage of fifty-two days. He soon removed to Ohio where he spent one year on a dairy farm and five years teaching in private schools and academies in Ashtabula, Trumbull and Summit counties. In 1861 he removed to Des Moines and taught in the public schools six months and then opened an academy in Cascade, Dubuque county. He was professor of mathematics in Iowa College, Grinnell, for seven years, and then removed to Kidder, Missouri, where he remained a year and a half, coming back to Iowa to teach in the Waterloo public schools. From 1876 to 1882 Mr. von Coelln served as state superintendent of public instruction. At the expiration of his public work he taught at Denison, and later was in the employ of D. Appleton & Co., publishers of school books. In 1892 he removed to Storm Lake where he served as professor of mathematics in Buena Vista College for four and a half years and then retired from active life for a number of years. From 1902 to 1904 Mr. von Coelln served as county superintendent of schools in Crawford county. In the spring of 1904 he removed to New London and entered the newspaper field as editor of the *Farmer-Times* and continued in that position until his death. He always took an active interest in the educational affairs of the State, framed many of the school laws now in force, and was known as the "father of the Iowa school laws." He served as president of the school board of New London and was an able editor.

JOSHUA MONROE SHAFFER was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1830; he died at Keokuk, Iowa, March 25, 1913. He entered Washington and Jefferson College at the age of thirteen years, and graduated in 1848 with the degree of A. B. In 1849 he began the study of medicine with his brother, John E. Shaffer, at Elizabeth, and attended lectures at the University of Pennsylvania. He came to Iowa in 1852, locating in Fairfield, where he practiced medicine. In 1862 the honorary degree of M. D. was conferred upon him by the State University of Iowa. He became interested in the organization of the Iowa State Agricultural Society in 1853, and served as secretary in 1854 and 1855 and again from 1863 to 1873. In 1863 he was appointed surgeon of the board of enrollment for the First Congressional District of Iowa, and examined over five thousand men preparatory to their admission to the army. He was appointed commissioner from Iowa to the Paris Exposition in 1867, but as no expense fund was provided by the State he resigned. He was Senator from Jefferson county in the Ninth and Ninth extra General Assemblies. In 1874 he removed to Keokuk to act as secretary of the Iowa Life Insurance Company, and held that position as long as the Company existed. During the years 1876 and 1877 he lectured at the Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Shaffer was a lifelong student of natural history and made numerous large collections. His collection of birds shows his skill as a taxidermist and he was well known

by authorities on natural history throughout the United States. He was also deeply interested in the history of Iowa and the West, and rendered great assistance in the collection and preservation of early historical data. He was an especial adviser and supporter of the founder of the Historical Department of Iowa. In politics he was a Republican and attended the first Republican convention in the State, which was held at Fairfield. He was a member of the Fremont Voters' Association.

W J MCGEE was born near Dubuque, Iowa, April 17, 1853; he died at Washington, D. C., September 4, 1912. Except for three or four terms in the public schools he was self-educated. In his earlier years he patented some agricultural implements, studied and practiced land surveying, read law and wrote for local papers. In 1875 he commenced the study of Indian mounds and relics in Iowa and Wisconsin. In 1877 he began a geological and topographical map of his own and neighboring counties, which he expanded the following year to include 17,000 square miles in northeastern Iowa. This work was done entirely at his own expense and was published in 1891 in the Eleventh Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey. In 1878 he published geological and anthropological papers in the American Journal of Science and in the Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1881 he examined and reported upon the building stones of Iowa. In the following year he became connected with the U. S. Geological Survey, his first work being a report upon the extinct lakes of Nevada and California. Later he was given charge of the coastal plain surveys in the eastern and southern states. In 1886 he went upon the ground and made a study of the Charleston earthquake, immediately after its occurrence. Upon the organization of the Geological Society of America in 1888 he became its editor, continuing in that capacity for four years. He also edited the National Geographic Magazine for a number of years. From 1893 to 1903 he was Ethnologist in charge of the Bureau of American Ethnology, during which time he explored Tiburon Island, making report on the savage tribe there never before studied. This position he resigned in 1903 to become Chief of the Department of Anthropology at the St. Louis Exposition. After 1907 he was a member of the U. S. Inland Waterways Commission. His geological maps of the United States and New York, published in 1885 and 1892 are standards, and his personal geological surveys formed the basis for the mapping of over 300,000 square miles. The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography states: "He formulated the method of correlation among geologic formations by homogeny or identity of origin; developed a natural or genetic classification of geology * * *; and did much to develop and was the first to apply the principles of geomorphy, or that branch of geology which deals with land forms." His publications include Pleistocene History of Northeastern Iowa, Geology of Chesapeake Bay, Lafayette Formation, Potable Waters of Eastern United States, Siouan Indians, Primitive Trephining in Peru, Seri Indians, Primitive Numbers, numerous scientific memoirs, and over three hundred articles. An extended biographical account will be published later, from the pen of Dr. Charles Keyes.

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