

## William Penn Wolf

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SIoux CITY, IOWA, OCTOBER 6, 1896.

I notice in the October, 1896, number of *THE ANNALS*, page 564, the statement credited to Major C. D. Ham of Dubuque, that Daniel Webster was interested with General Geo. W. Jones in the town site of Sioux City.

This is unquestionably a mistake, for Daniel Webster died October 24, 1852, about two years before the first survey of town lots at Sioux City, and three years and a half before the entry of the town site at the Government Land Office. I have had occasion to investigate titles at Sioux City, in many of which General Jones was once interested, but never heard that Webster was interested with him till I saw it in the newspapers last summer.

GEO. W. WAKEFIELD.

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### NOTABLE DEATHS.

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SILAS A. HUDSON died at Burlington, Iowa, December 19, 1896. He settled in that city in 1839, and for many years occupied prominent official positions both in the State and Nation. He was a clerk in one of the Territorial Legislatures which met in Burlington, and the first chief clerk of the house of representatives after the State was admitted into the Union, having been elected December 26, 1846. Ten years later he was elected Mayor of Burlington. He drafted the charter of the city as well as the ordinances under which its government was conducted for twenty years. He was the intimate friend of George D. Prentice, Horace Greeley, Abraham Lincoln and U. S. Grant. He was instrumental in making the arrangement under which Lincoln went to New York and made his great Cooper Institute speech, which led to his nomination for the Presidency. He was a cousin of General Grant whom he knew from boyhood. During the administration of the latter Mr. Hudson represented this country as minister to the Central American States. He resigned this last position in 1872, after which time he resided in Burlington until the day of his death. Mr. Hudson was born in Mason county, Kentucky, December 13, 1815.

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WILLIAM PENN WOLF, whose death occurred at Tipton, September 19, 1896, was born December 31, 1833, at Harrisburg, Stark county, Ohio. He was of Quaker parentage. The family removing later to a farm near Marlboro, he attended the common school and seminary, and afterward taught in the Union School and at Lunaville. He was also principal of the Edinburgh High School in Portage county. He chose the law as a profession and entered the office of Bierce & Pease of Canton, Ohio. In 1856, at the age of twenty-three, he came with his parents to Cedar county. Here he engaged again in teaching school, and also studied law with Hon. Rush Clark of Iowa City. It was during these years that John Brown spent some time at Springdale. Mr. Wolf was an abolitionist, and knowing Brown well aided him in helping fugitive slaves escape to the north. In 1859 he was married to Miss Alice Macy. They removed to Tipton where Mr. Wolf began the practice of the law and where he afterward resided. He also taught in the schools and served as County Superintendent. In 1863 he was elected as representative in the State Legislature. In 1864 he formed a law partnership with Hon. J. H. Rothrock, which continued until Mr. Rothrock went upon the bench. In May, 1864, Mr. Wolf assisted

in raising Company "I," Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry, and was elected Captain. At the expiration of his military service he resumed the practice of law with Judge Rothrock. He was assistant Collector of Revenue under Lincoln's administration. Later, he edited *The Tipton Advertiser*. He was elected State Senator in 1867, serving until 1870, when he was chosen to Congress to fill an unexpired term. In 1881, he was again elected representative in the State legislature—re-elected in 1883, and at the opening of that session chosen speaker of the house. He presided with marked ability and impartiality. He was elected Judge of the eighteenth Judicial district in the fall of 1894, which position he held at the time of his death. Judge Wolf was a man of much ability, widely informed, popular in manners, active and brave as a soldier, ready and resourceful as a lawyer, and just and impartial on the bench—a pioneer settler who will long be held in grateful recollection.

JESSE B. HOWELL, manager of *The Gate City*, died at his home in Keokuk, Iowa, October 19, 1896, of consumption. He was born at Iowa City, Iowa, August 2, 1851, and was the son of Hon. J. B. Howell, U. S. Senator. Keokuk was his home throughout his life. He became connected with *The Gate City*, of which his father was proprietor, many years ago, and since his father's death represented his interests. He was known as a man of exceptional business capacity, of indomitable will, of high ideals, of great strength of character, of lofty motives. He was an exemplary citizen and business man, in whose death the community suffers a material loss. His personality is strongly impressed upon Iowa journalism, with which he had so long been identified, and journalism fully realizes its loss through his death. For the last few years his health had been failing, and he had travelled quite extensively, hoping to find a restorative in other climes. Hon. S. M. Clark, who knew him from infancy, pays a beautiful tribute to his memory, from which we quote the following: "Mr. Howell saw the sun of his life going down at the meridian, but he went toward its setting gentle, calm, unselfish, uncomplaining, wise, thoughtful of others; meeting his Gethsemane and his Calvary in the Christlike way; so bearing his own burden, and the burden of those about him, as to make it easier for them, however painful to himself."

EX-CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM E. MILLER was born near Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, October 18, 1823, and died in Des Moines, November 7, 1896. He was for more than a quarter of a century a prominent figure in Iowa affairs. He entered the army in 1862 as Colonel of the 28th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, but was compelled by ill health to resign the following year. In 1864 he prepared "A Treatise on Pleading and Practice in Actions and Special Proceedings at Law and Equity Under the Revision of 1860," which was followed by "The Revised Code of 1873," a work on "Highways," etc. At the time of his death he was engaged upon another legal work which he left unfinished. He had served as Judge of the Eighth Judicial District from 1858 to 1862, and was again elected to the same position in 1868. He was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Bench in 1869, and the following year elected to the same place, serving as Chief Justice. He had also been connected with the Law Department of the State University. He settled permanently in Des Moines in 1873. Judge Miller was a learned, able and profound lawyer, and a good man. His memory survives as that of one who bore an honorable part in the times in which he lived. Sketches of his life may be found in Stuart's "Iowa Colonels and Regiments," and in THE ANNALS for October, 1874.

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