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He was elected to the State Senate in 1867 from the 5th Senatorial district, and served in the Twelfth and Thirteenth General Assemblies with credit to himself and his district, his clearness of mind and integrity of purpose giving him much influence with his fellow members. He was elected a trustee of the State College of Agriculture at Ames and served during the building and organization of the school, and always retained an active interest in its progress.

He was also associated with the early history and had a part in building the Burlington railroad in Iowa.

Although stricken first with paralysis in 1874, by the force of his indomitable will, and resolute courage, he arose above the affliction, and, although always under the shadow of the disease, he lived a life of cheerfulness, retaining a keen interest in the events of the day.

In the hearts of his friends will remain the memory of a man whose life stood for something definite; steadiness of purpose, integrity, kindness and the modesty that is the mark of a gentleman.

Resolved by the Senate of the Thirty-first General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That this memorial be adopted, spread at length upon our Journal and that an engrossed copy of these resolutions attested by the President and Secretary of this Senate, be presented, with our sincere sympathy, to the bereaved family of the deceased.

R. A. HASSELQUIST,
JAS. H. JAMISON,
MARION F. STOOKEY.

Senator Hasselquist spoke as follows:

Mr. President and Fellow Senators:— It is with a sense of deep sadness that I at this time arise desiring to pay a humble tribute to the memory of him who is the subject of these resolutions.

Some time during the still white hours of the early morning following a happy Christmas day, the undaunted soul of James D. Wright winged its way into the great beyond. The quiet summons came in a stroke of paralysis as he slept, at the home of his son Jenk E. Wright.

He was buried from the home of his daughter, Mrs. Joseph A. Brown, Thursday afternoon, December 28th, at 2 o'clock. The services were marked by simplicity in keeping with his life and Quaker faith. A prayer was offered by Rev. F. B. Palmer of the Baptist church and hymns sung by a male quartette. The services at the grave were in charge of the G. A. R.

Dr. Wright had been suffering from a slight indisposition and while he was unable to participate in the festivities of the day, he seemed, to his family, to have thrown off the weakness of the previous days and to have almost regained his usual strength, and in his always happy, cheery and interesting way had talked of the days that were gone, especially of those times when "the boys in blue answered to their country's call."

James D. Wright was born in Belmont County, Ohio, November 30, 1820. His grandfather came from the city of Dublin, Ireland, in 1802 and entered, with others, a section of land where the town of Belmont now stands. His mother's ancestors come from England to Maryland with Lord Baltimore and thence to Ohio.

As a lad he walked three miles to school in winter, learning his a, b, c's from crude letters pasted on a paddle. The children sat on benches made of slabs, the schoolhouse being of hewn logs. He did not like to go to school and as his father did not believe in idleness, he worked on the farm much of the time, going to school intermittently. His fondness for horses made life on the farm a delight to him. When sixteen years of age he teamed across the mountains, over the government pike to Baltimore, and he often recalled the refrain of a song sung by teamsters in condemnation of the railroad of which there was talk of building and which they believed would be a calamity. After a few glimpses into the world, he realized that he must have an education so he left home and went to school at Monroe Academy at Woodfield for about three years. At the end of that time he decided to study medicine and went for that purpose to Cincinnati in 1843, where he graduated. He then went to New York City, a journey at that time fraught with great interest and attended with many difficulties, as the journey was made by boat on the Ohio, by stage across the state from Wheeling to Cleveland, then again by boat to Montreal and finally down the Hudson to the city. He has often said that it was the most interesting trip that he had ever made. At that time there was neither telegraph, telephone nor railroad.

After reaching New York he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons and was appointed district physician, having under his jurisdiction that part of New York City known as "Five Points," at that time considered one of the worst and most degraded places in the civilized world.

Varied experiences came to him "a green boy from the back woods" as he said, and his observation and the wide knowledge gained in ministering to all kinds and classes of humanity, helped to develop his judgment and professional skill. He returned to practice in his native town and rode on horseback far and wide through the country, enduring the hardships common to physicians in the pioneer days.

At the time of the Mexican War he determined to go as a surgeon, but on reaching Nashville, Tenn., he was taken very ill and obliged to return home.

On March 3, 1847, he married Margaret Ann Evans, to whose loving kindness, strength of character and wise judgment, he attributed the continual happiness of the thirty-seven years of their married life.

He took an active part in the building of the B. and O. railroad through Ohio. In 1853, owing to ill health, he, with his wife, visited the west, traveling over Indiana, Illinois and Iowa as far west as Council Bluffs where, after waiting three days "for the wind to stop blowing so the river could be crossed to Omaha" he turned back. In the fall of 1856 they settled in Knoxville, Iowa, having been advised "not to go farther west than the Des Moines river, as the Great American Desert would soon be reached and the land was of little value except in strips near the streams."

The winters of 1856 and 1857 were of extreme rigor and many were the hardships encountered. Strange indeed was the country to the wife and three children who came in their Quaker bonnets and speaking "the plain language," for, true to the inheritance of generations who lay in the Quaker burying ground in Dublin, the faith had been fostered in the soil of the Ohio wilderness.

In 1861 he moved to Chariton and purchased the flour mill. Later in the year he offered his services to Governor Kirkwood as a surgeon in the army but being unable to find any one who could run the mill, he decided he must postpone his going and "could do more good by grinding at the mill and helping the families of the boys who were gone," as there was no other mill within twenty-five miles. When the call came again in 1864, he succeeded in getting some one to take charge of the mill and enlisted as a private in the 46th Iowa. He was soon made a surgeon of the 47th Iowa. Owing to the illness of other surgeons, he assumed the care of an additional regiment, a gun-boat aground in the river and the refugee hospital. His health was soon affected by the strain but he persisted in his determination to remain until his regiment was mustered out.

In an autobiographical sketch prepared by him for the Lucas County Historical Society, his love for the state is evidenced in the statement that "I have traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific and have seen many fine places but considering climate, health and happiness, Iowa suits me as well as any place I have ever seen."

It was always a delight to his friends to listen to Dr. Wright's reminiscences of early days and pioneer experiences, for his gentle humor and his appreciation of the relation of personal happenings to the larger events which were then making history, gave interest to whatever he had to say. Always modest and unassuming, one never knew what an important factor he often was in many of these events.

His strong affection for his friends, coupled with a remarkable memory, and his charity for his fellow men gave him a most entertaining fund of anecdotes. Always a great reader, he never lost interest in the events of the day. He left in manuscript his reminiscences of early years which will be a priceless legacy to his children and grandchildren.

On Thanksgiving day his eight-fifth birthday was celebrated most happily at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. A. Brown. Scores of letters of congratulation came to him from his old friends from all parts of the country and the intervening days were filled with happy reminiscences as he acknowledged these letters.

He had said, "I try not to worry but to be as cheerful as I can, knowing the end will come some time. I have expected it a long time." In the hearts of his friends will remain the memory of a man whose life stood for something definite; steadiness of purpose, integrity, kindness and the modesty that is a mark of a true gentleman.

Senator Hasselquist moved the adoption of the report and resolutions.

Adopted unanimously by a standing vote.

Senator Saunders moved that the remarks made by Senator Hasselquist be printed in the Journal.

Carried.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE.

The following messages were received from the House:

MR. PRESIDENT—I am directed to inform your honorable body that the House has herewith returned House file No. 325, a bill for an act to amend section forty-eight hundred twenty-two (4822) of the code, relative to malicious injuries to buildings and fixtures.

C. R. BENEDICT,

Chief Clerk

Also:

MR. PRESIDENT—I am directed to inform your honorable body that the House has indefinitely postponed the following bill in which the concurrence of the House was asked:

Senate file No. 166, a bill for an act providing for the compilation of a roster of soldiers, sailors and marines, survivors of the Mexican and Civil wars, now living in Iowa, and making an appropriation therefor.

C. R. BENEDICT,

Chief Clerk.

MR. PRESIDENT—I am directed to inform your honorable body that the House has concurred in the Senate concurrent resolution relative to extending an invitation to President Roosevelt to attend the reunion of the National Society of the Army of the Philippines, to be held at Des Moines, August 13, 14 and 15, 1906.

C. R. BENEDICT,

Chief Clerk.