

THOMAS FLETCHER died at his home in Keokuk, September 16, 1896. He was born in Ireland December 11, 1812. Emigrating to this country in 1836, he was employed at his trade, as a stone mason, on various public works in Canada and New York, until 1855, when he came to this State to take charge of certain work on the old Des Moines river improvement. He soon after settled in Keokuk where he resided until his death, engaging as a contractor in masonry and general building. His first wife, to whom he was united in Canada in 1840, having died, he was again married in 1855, at Farmington, Iowa, to Miss Anstice Arrison, who survives him. Possessed of a most genial and kindly disposition, with conversational powers of a high order, he became one of the best known of the old residents of Keokuk. Like his illustrious prototype, the lamented Hugh Miller—while working in quarries, and later by the study of books—he acquired a wide knowledge of geology and paleontology. One could listen to him for hours when he was talking upon these favorite themes. He had made a fine collection of geological specimens, prominent among which were many polished teeth of great sharks which terrorized the Iowa seas millions of years ago. But in addition to his wonderful knowledge of geology and natural history, Thomas Fletcher was a lovable character—much such a personality as the late Judge George G. Wright—a grand, good man, moving in an atmosphere of rare intelligence and native refinement, which made his acquaintance a treasure to all who knew him.

JOHN M. DAY, who died in Des Moines, September 29, 1896, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania in 1831. He was educated at the Presbyterian College, in Waynesburg, and studied law. Settling at Davenport, Iowa, in 1859, he entered upon the practice of his profession, in which he attained much distinction, and in which he continued until 1868, when he removed to Des Moines, where he resided until his death. He was a man of large financial ability and very successful in various business enterprises, especially in the work of extending north from the capital—in 1873—what is now known as the Chicago & North Western Railroad. That this important work was prosecuted so successfully until its completion, thus connecting Des Moines by rail with the northern portions of our State, was largely due to the persistence and hard work of Mr. Day. It is recorded that, while he was school director in Des Moines he succeeded in reducing the expenses of the district about \$5,000, with no deterioration of the service. He was everywhere an earnest and useful man, who rejoiced whenever he saw "two blades of grass growing where but one grew before."

DR. AARON DELANO WETHERELL, was born in Burlington, Vermont, July 21, 1818, and died in Knoxville, Iowa, November 20, 1896. He was of English and Scotch ancestry. The first fifteen years of his life were spent in Vermont. He then removed with his parents to Licking county, Ohio, living on a farm in Granville Township. He attended the High School and later taught school in Illinois. He entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, where he graduated in 1844, beginning his practice in Licking county, Ohio, where he remained until 1856. In that year he removed to Knoxville, Iowa, where he practiced medicine until his last illness. He was at the time of his death the oldest practicing physician in Marion county, and for many years had been a leader in the profession. He was physician and surgeon to the county Insurance board, and a member of the Marion county Medical Society and the State Medical Society. Dr. Wetherell was widely and most favorably known in Marion county for forty years, and his death was sincerely mourned.

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