

only current interest, but permanent historical value. In no other work that has yet appeared is there such a complete survey of the origin and development of the higher educational facilities of our State. Prof. W. T. Harris, Chief of the Bureau of Education, in transmitting it to Gen. John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior, commended it as a work "which is instructive to all students and observers of educational progress." It contains many fine illustrations of the leading institutions of our State. It is a work which will be highly valued by every intelligent person into whose hands it may come. As it is a public document, we presume copies may be had by writing any Member of Congress or the Chief of the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

The State Historical Society a few months ago also published a pamphlet of 196 pages, under the following title: "Constitution and Records of the Claim Club of Johnson County, Iowa. With Introduction and Notes. By Benjamin F. Shambaugh, A. M." While it is for the most part a simple compilation, its contents were dug out of musty old documents, the only wonder concerning which is, that they were not long ago destroyed. Before the Government offered lands for sale in many regions, settlers had come in who needed some means by which to protect themselves in the possession of their rights to the soil. Organizations were formed for this purpose and records kept of every claim. The Claim Club was therefore a sort of government to protect the pioneers for the time being. This is fully shown in Mr. Shambaugh's pamphlet. He is also writing a monograph to be entitled, "Early Government in Iowa."

NOTABLE DEATHS.

HUGH W. MAXWELL died in Des Moines, on the 6th of December, at the age of 67. He was born in Illinois in 1827, and removed to Iowa in 1852, settling at Indianola. In 1856 he was elected county clerk, and being an able lawyer, was chosen in 1866 prosecuting attorney for the Seventh Judicial District. Upon the resignation of Judge Nourse, Mr. Maxwell was appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of district Judge. He served about nine years in that capacity, and won universal esteem. During the war Judge Maxwell did good service in the commissary department. Several years ago he moved to Carthage, Mo., and afterwards spent some time in Arizona on account of failing health. About two years ago he returned to Des Moines, where his last days were spent. Judge Maxwell had a wide circle of friends in central Iowa who honor his memory as an irreproachable citizen, an able lawyer and a just judge.

JOSEPH BURTON, who died at Waukon, on the first day of December, was one of the pioneer settlers in Allamakee County. He was a native of Rhode Island, coming west in 1854 and settling on a farm, lying on the Makee ridge in Allamakee County. In 1861 Mr. Burton was elected to the lower house of the Ninth General Assembly, serving through the regular and extra sessions of 1862. He was 77 years of age at the time of his death. He was an excellent and useful citizen, widely known and highly esteemed in north-eastern Iowa.

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