

that portion of the State. He served as a representative in the General Assembly of 1876, and in that year was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, where he supported Samuel J. Tilden for the presidential nomination. In the convention of 1884, to which he was a delegate at large, he was a warm advocate of the nomination of Grover Cleveland. He presided over the Good Roads Convention in Chicago in 1892. In that great movement he was a leading actor for many years. He was long a working and deeply interested member of the school board of Clinton. Governor Kirkwood appointed him a trustee of the State Normal School. He was one of the trusted men of his party throughout his more than fifty years in Iowa, one who always enjoyed the fullest confidence of the opposition.

---

SEYMOUR DWIGHT THOMPSON was born in Will county, Illinois, September 22, 1842; he died at his home in East Orange, New Jersey, August 12, 1904. At the breaking out of the civil war he enlisted in Company F, Third Iowa Infantry, at West Union, Iowa. He was soon appointed First Sergeant, serving in that capacity something over two years. In 1865 he was commissioned Captain of Company I, Third United States Heavy Artillery, in which rank he was mustered out at the end of the war, when barely twenty-one years of age. In 1868 he was admitted to the bar at Memphis, Tennessee. From 1881 to 1893 he was associate judge of the St. Louis Court of Appeals. He removed to Brooklyn, New York, in 1898, and opened a law office in New York City. Judge Thompson became pre-eminent as a law writer. His works are accepted as standards by the legal profession everywhere. He also wrote "Recollections with the Third Iowa Regiment," which was published in 1864. He had it in contemplation to revise this work for another edition. He was appointed by President Roosevelt a delegate to the Congress of Law and Jurists which met at St. Louis, in September. The law journals of the United States and Canada for September, 1904, presented elaborate notices of the life and works of this illustrious Iowa soldier, jurist and author. *The Chicago Legal News* concluded its article as follows: "Perhaps the whole life of Seymour D. Thompson may be summed up by saying that he preserved in an age steadily tending to moral compromises and the obliteration of the essential distinction between right and wrong, the integrity of the old Roman; that he illustrated in his every act and thought the best principles of American democracy; and that his success in his chosen profession clearly shows that ability and industry, coupled with high character, still triumph, as they have always triumphed, over the most adverse circumstances."

---

AARON BROWN was born in Marion county, Mississippi, June 7, 1822; he died in Mitchellville, Iowa, July 2, 1904. His father was a southerner and a slave-holder, but about 1825 removed to the north and freed his slaves. A brother became a free state candidate for the Kansas legislature and was brutally murdered on election day, on account of his anti-slavery principles. In 1844 Aaron Brown removed to Michigan and began the study of medicine. In 1849 he made the overland trip to California and remained there until 1852, when he located in Fayette county, Iowa, which was for many years his home. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted in Company F, Third Iowa Infantry; on the organization of the Company he was elected Second Lieutenant; in 1862 he was promoted to the Captaincy. In 1863 he was chosen Colonel and commanded the regiment through the siege of Vicksburg and led the attack on Jackson, Mississippi, where he was wounded. He was also wounded at the battle of Blue Mills Landing in September, 1861. Dr. Brown was a member of the State Senate in the 6th and 7th General Assemblies, and a member of the House in the 12th and 13th. He was Register of the State Land Office for two terms, including

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.