

the bar in 1874. He removed to Burlington, Iowa, to enter the practice in 1875, advancing to a position of leadership not only in the Des Moines county bar, but for a generation among the strong lawyers throughout the State. He was not much in public situations, his only service being as city solicitor. In that situation he devised and directed some of the most important developments in municipal government in the history of Burlington, notably the refund of the municipal debt, and the adoption and introduction of the commission form of city government. He was for thirty years president of the Hawkeye Publishing Company and in an editorial of the *Burlington Hawkeye*, May 14, 1912, acknowledgment was made of the strength and volume of the influence of Mr. Poor upon the policy of that paper and in the lives of its editors of departments. The lives of strong men who remain beyond the range of popular attention are difficult to portray in brief. These are none the less great lives. Such a life had C. L. Poor.

HENRY BLAKE MITCHELL was born at Claremont, Sullivan county, New Hampshire, July 15, 1818; he died at Fairfield, Iowa, June 2, 1912. He was an orphan boy at fourteen. At twenty-one he started west, the thread of his journey being typical of that of other New Hampshire pioneers, namely, by wagon to Troy, thence to Buffalo by canal, thence to Cleveland by boat, thence to Portsmouth, Ohio, by canal, thence by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Keokuk, Iowa, where he remained until 1840, when he removed to his claim in Jefferson county. With a brother he soon established a tavern known as the Mitchell, "near the boundary line of the Indian country." He returned to his claim near Fairfield before the admission of the State and there made his home until 1890, when he removed to Fairfield. In 1852 he was elected a representative in the Fourth General Assembly, as a Whig. He became a Republican and remained a member of that organization throughout the rest of his life. In 1886 he was returned to the General Assembly as a representative. He was one of the founders of the Jefferson County Agricultural Society, which he served as its president for fifteen years. He served for seventeen years as president of the board of directors of Fairfield township school district and for nine years as a member of the county board of supervisors.

REV. ELIAS SKINNER was born in Holmes county, Ohio, September 3, 1827; he died at Waterloo, Iowa, May 1, 1912. He removed with his family to Iowa Territory, May 12, 1839, settling at Birmingham in Van Buren county. He was educated in the common schools, united with the Methodist Episcopal church at the age of fourteen, was licensed to preach in 1851, was ordained a deacon by Bishop Scott in 1855, was one of the original members of the Upper Iowa

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