

Lake. On March 8, 1857, her parents and all the others of their household except herself were massacred by a band of Sioux Indians. In all about forty persons in that vicinity, men, women, and children, were killed, and three young women whose husbands had been killed, and Abbie Gardner, were taken captive. They were made slaves and burden-bearers on the long march west of several hundred miles. Two of the women were murdered on the way by the captors, one was sold to an Indian who returned her for a ransom, and Miss Gardner was taken to the place where now stands the village of Ashton, Spink County, South Dakota, on the James River, to a great Indian village. Two Wapeton Indians, sent by the Indian Agent in Minnesota, came to the village and purchased her, and took her to St. Paul, where she was received by Governor Medary, on June 22, 1857. She returned to a sister who lived at Hampton, Iowa, and on August 16, 1857, was married there to Casville Sharp. They lived in Bremer County, then in Grundy County, for a time in Missouri, and in Kansas, then in Shell Rock, Iowa. Her health had been broken by the hardships she endured when she was a captive. Three children were born to them. In 1885 she wrote and had published "History of the Spirit Lake Massacre and the Captivity of Miss Abbie Gardner," which ran to six editions. In her later life Mrs. Sharp obtained the original Gardner cabin on the shore of Okoboji Lake and collected many relics of the times of the early settlement of the region. For several years she spent the summers in the cabin, meeting the throngs of visitors.

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JENNESS J. RICHARDSON was born in Vermont March 22, 1839, and died in Davenport, Iowa, February 19, 1917. He attended common school from the time he was seven years old until he was seventeen. In 1857 he came to Davenport to help his older brother, D. N., who had come out three years previously and had become owner of the *Davenport Democrat*. J. J. worked on the paper as a compositor three years and one year as foreman. It became apparent to the brothers that they would have to obtain more income or lose their paper to their creditors. At that time very little advertising was done in newspapers, the value of it being unknown to the business man. J. J. went among the business men of Davenport soliciting advertising and succeeded so well that he and his brother were soon out of debt. He then went to the larger cities soliciting advertising, an unprecedented thing to do. He succeeded only fairly well at Chicago, but in 1864 he went to New York on the same mission. For the next fifteen years he was on the road most of the time as the pioneer advertising solicitor, making New York, Boston, Baltimore and all the large eastern cities. His success was phenomenal. About 1880 his health becoming poor he quit the road and interested himself in importing and breeding Jersey cattle. This he continued for twenty-five years, winning great success in this field. He also became interested in politics. In 1880 he was made a member of the Democratic Congressional Committee and in 1888 was chosen as the Iowa member of the Democratic National Committee, and was placed on the executive

committee. He gave the position much time. He became a personal friend of Grover Cleveland and remained on the committee during Cleveland's second term, the federal appointments for Iowa being usually referred to him for his approval. His keen business sense and Yankee shrewdness served him well in business and in investments and he became quite wealthy. He was a heavy stockholder in and a director of the German Savings Bank of Davenport, and was interested in many other enterprises. He kept his connection with the *Democrat* all these years and at the time of the organization of the Democrat Publishing Company in 1915 he became its president. He had been connected with the paper for over fifty-eight years, and was regarded as the dean of the newspaper profession in America. In late years he was an extensive traveler, having been fourteen times to Europe. He was an accomplished, versatile and forceful man.

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ERASTUS B. SOPER was born in Pitcher, Chenango County, New York, September 15, 1841, and died at Kansas City, Missouri, March 20, 1917, being then on his way to his home in Emmetsburg, Iowa, from spending the winter at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Interment was at Emmetsburg. When six years old he came with his parents to Jones County, Iowa. He attended Western College, near Cedar Rapids, and with other young men from that college enlisted in the First Iowa Infantry for the ninety-day period. At the end of that time he enlisted in the Twelfth Iowa Infantry as a private and was promoted until he became captain of Company D of that regiment. He saw four years in active service. After the war he entered Cornell College and was graduated in 1868. He remained with the college some time, teaching mathematics. In 1904 Cornell conferred on him the honorary degree of LL. D. Leaving Cornell College he was for a while in Cedar Rapids in the government pension office and also studying law. He was admitted to the bar in 1870. In 1871 he removed to Estherville and engaged in the practice of law. In 1876 he opened a law office at Emmetsburg and removed there in 1879. His practice extended over many adjoining counties and he was regarded as very successful. He became extensively interested in land and also was interested in several banks in that part of the state. He was active in public affairs and at one time, in the nineties, was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. He was a trustee of Cornell College from 1877 and was president of the board for a considerable time. He was chairman of the Shiloh Military Park Commission, and was commander of the Loyal Legion of Iowa. He was a lay delegate to the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1904 at Los Angeles, and again, in 1908, at Baltimore.

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MAURICE O'CONNOR was born on a farm near Missouri Valley, Harrison County, Iowa, in 1875, and died at Fort Dodge, Iowa, May 5, 1917. He was graduated from the Missouri Valley High School, attended school a year in Lincoln, Nebraska, attended the Woodbine Normal School and

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