

Nebraska, in 1857. In 1860 he was a delegate to the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. Two years later he went to Colorado with Governor Evans, as his secretary; and afterwards married his daughter. In 1873 President Grant appointed him the sixth territorial governor of Colorado. Later, he was elected a judge of the Supreme Court of Colorado and retained the position for many years. To Mr. Elbert is due the credit of organizing and upbuilding the Republican party in Colorado. He had travelled extensively in Europe and in this country. His father, John Downs Elbert, was a member of the fourth territorial council of Iowa.

---

DR. MAHLON P. TURNER was born in Boone county, Missouri, October 25, 1824; he died in Des Moines, October 15, 1899. He obtained his college and professional education in Jacksonville, Illinois, and first practiced medicine in Exeter in that State. After some years spent in California he removed to Des Moines in 1858, where he resided the remainder of his life. He was for many years a prominent factor in the capital city's growth and prosperity, as builder, promoter and financier. In 1867 he established the first Des Moines street railway, the predecessor of the present admirable system. The story of his long and persevering fight for its success, in face of ridicule and discouragement, and of his ultimate triumph, shows the sterling qualities of the man. He also served three terms as mayor of Des Moines and six years as city attorney. As a prohibition leader he was known throughout the State.

---

HON. J. H. SANDERS of Sigourney, Iowa, died at Memphis, Tennessee, on the 22d of December last. He was an early settler of Keokuk county and connected with various public journals. During the winter of 1860 he was secretary of the State senate. Later, he started an agricultural or live stock journal at Sigourney, the publication of which he continued for several years. He afterwards removed to Chicago where he founded *The Breeders' Gazette*, which became the leading live stock journal in the world. It ranked higher than any periodical devoted to domestic animal life even in England. It is truth to say that few men of his generation have surpassed him in usefulness. He retired from *The Gazette* a few years ago and came home to Sigourney, where he led a very retired life. We have no definite particulars as to his age or the cause of his death.

---

JOSEPH H. SWAN was born in Melbourne, Canada, February 10, 1833; he died in Sioux City, Iowa, December 5, 1899. He was one of the oldest members of the Sioux City bar, having practiced there since 1872. He helped to lay out the town site of Le Sueur, Minnesota, in 1872. He was a prominent railroad attorney and had served as counsel for large business corporations. He took an active part in the Civil War. He was commissioned 1st lieutenant of the 3d Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. In the Little Crow Indian outbreak of 1862 this regiment was active, and at the Battle of Birch Coule won much distinction. For his share in that affair he was promoted to a captaincy. He had been a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U. S. since 1899.

---

LAVINIA BLACKMARR BENEDICT, "Mother Benedict," as she was called throughout the State, was born October 14, 1823; she died in Decorah, Iowa, October 29, 1899. She was married in Ohio, in 1841, and with her husband removed in 1863 to Springwater, Winneshiek county. A few years later the family took up their residence in Decorah. In 1871, after the death of her husband, she entered upon the work associated with her name,

that of rescuing fallen women. She founded the Benedict Home at Des Moines, and also the Benedict Retreat at Decorah. In religious belief she was a Friend.

LOUIS S. SWAFFORD was born in Indiana, October 31, 1818; he died in Iowa City, November 15, 1899. Mr. Swafford was one of the oldest pioneers of Iowa City, having located there in 1840. He was a skilled builder and was at one time employed in the erection of the old capitol. His workmanship is seen in the best buildings in that city. He assisted in 1866 in organizing the Johnson County Old Settlers' Association. A Mason of high standing, he was present at the organization of the Grand Lodge of Iowa in 1844. He had held many offices of trust in the city and township.

JAMES DUNNE a prominent citizen of Jackson county, died at his home in Otter Creek, December 5, 1899. He was born in Ireland, January 21, 1823, came to America in 1843, and in 1854 settled in Jackson county. He was recognized as one of the leading Democrats of the State, and was once offered the Democratic nomination for governor, which he declined. For twenty years he served on the board of county supervisors, and was a member of the Thirteenth General Assembly of Iowa, in which he bore a notable part as a friend of the project to erect the new capitol.

MRS. MARY ISETT SPRAGUE, the wife of Hon. D. N. Sprague, died at her home in Wapello, Iowa, October 29, 1899. She was born in Noblestown, Pennsylvania, August 3, 1840. Her parents were among the pioneer settlers of Wapello and it was in that place that her life was spent. She was widely known and universally esteemed by the pioneer settlers of the region in which she became well known. Every judge in what was the old first district, where her husband served for years as district attorney, adjourned court out of respect for her memory.

JOHN H. GIVEN, a pioneer resident of Des Moines, Iowa, died at his home December 9, 1899. He was born in West Virginia, October 27, 1820. In 1845 he removed to Iowa, living in Lee and later in Wapello county. He came to Des Moines in 1851, where he has since resided. Mr. Given has been prominent in business circles and has served on the city council and as a member of the West Des Moines school board. He was the father of Mrs. Pauline Given Swalm, the distinguished Iowa journalist.

JOHN W. PALMER was born in Christian county, Kentucky, August 3, 1814; he died in Dubuque, Iowa, December 30, 1899. He came with his father on a flatboat from Cincinnati to Galena in 1828. His father dying soon after, the boy went to Jackson, Illinois, where he remained until the Black Hawk war, in which he served as a volunteer. After the war he settled in Dubuque where he resided until his death. It is believed that Mr. Palmer was the last survivor of the early settlers of the lead mine region.

DR. ALONZO W. CANTWELL was born in Mansfield, Ohio, in 1841; he died in Davenport, Iowa, November 22, 1899. He came to Davenport early in 1869, and was for thirty years one of the leading physicians of Scott county, and closely identified with the interests of Davenport, a worker for its sanitary improvement. He served on the city council in 1880-82. A member of the leading medical associations of the country, he was honored by them with various official positions.

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.