



*Yours always,
Henry O'Connor.*

THE LATE HON. HENRY O'CONNOR,
Soldier in the civil war, 1861-5; Attorney General of Iowa, 1867-72.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

HENRY O'CONNOR was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1820; he died at the Soldiers' Home, Marshalltown, Iowa, November 6, 1900. We have no record of his early life. He came to this country at the age of 20, stopping in New York City, where he learned the tailor's trade, at which he worked several years. During this time he studied law and was admitted to the bar in May, 1849, in which year he came to Iowa and settled in Muscatine. He was a popular and most eloquent speaker and soon became well known throughout the State. At first an Anti-Slavery Whig, he naturally went into the Republican party upon its organization. He was a candidate for presidential elector and supported Gen. Winfield Scott for president in 1852. He was also nominated for the same place in 1856 as a Republican, supporting John C. Fremont. In 1858 he was elected district attorney, in which office he remained until the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted as a private in Co. A, First Iowa Infantry, with which he marched down into Missouri. He bore his part in the battle of Wilson's Creek, where Gen. Lyon was killed. In many of the towns receptions were given to the regiment, upon which occasions the duty of responding to speeches of welcome devolved upon "Private O'Connor." It was also jocosely reported that his musket "kicked" so severely that it faced him half-way around into the position of "load!" When the regiment was mustered out he was the best-known man in it. Upon his return, Gov. Kirkwood appointed him Major of the Thirty-fifth Iowa Infantry. He served in this command until the close of the war. In 1866 he was elected attorney-general of the State, and re-elected two years later. In 1868 a memorable case arose in Mitchell county which was referred to him for his opinion. A woman was elected county superintendent of schools whose qualifications were questioned on account of her sex. Attorney General O'Connor decided that in Iowa women were equally eligible with men to any office except that of member of the legislature. This decision settled the question for the time, but it was made the subject of legislation later on. It was one of the events of his career of which he was always proud. Some years later he was appointed solicitor of the State Department at Washington, from which position he retired upon the election of President Cleveland. This was his last official service, except that when far advanced in life he was two or three times chosen to some subordinate office in connection with the State legislature. The manuscripts of his opinions fill many folio volumes in the State Department at Washington. Major O'Connor was a typical Irishman, impulsive, genial, courteous, warm-hearted, a man of many friends, with few or no enemies, a brave, self-sacrificing soldier in the nation's time of need, a lawyer of ability and learning.

CAPT. JOSEPH A. O. YEOMAN was born at Washington Court House, Ohio, in 1842, where he lived until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he entered the 1st Ohio cavalry as a private. He served throughout the war, quitting the service with the rank of Captain. Speaking of his military service the *Fort Dodge Messenger*, of November 20, says: "Captain Yeoman's war record is a brilliant one. He was a dashing army officer, shrewd in plans and daring in action; a typical cavalryman in a war in which cavalry reached a height of effectiveness seldom seen. His chief reputation is linked with the capture of Jefferson Davis, in which he bore no inconsiderable part. He was detached with a party of twenty picked men in the disguise of rebel soldiers, to endeavor to secure news of Davis, and after hard riding and numberless adventures succeeded in joining the escort which was accompanying the rebel president. Captain Yeoman's plan was to capture Mr. Davis by a sudden attack, but he was prevented by the

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