

later years in promoting the interests of the Children's Aid Society, the Chautauqua Club, the W. C. T. U., the Political Equality Club, and many other educational and charitable enterprises. Mr. Bemis was elected Treasurer of State in 1876 and re-elected in 1878, the family residing at the capital during his four years of service. While residing at Des Moines Mrs. Bemis became widely known, and is remembered with great respect and esteem throughout the State.

GUY WELLS was born in Wyalusing township, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, July 21, 1813; he died at St. Paul, Minnesota, June 27, 1899. He was a contractor and civil engineer, and settled in Fort Madison, Iowa, in 1839. He helped survey a portion of the line of the Illinois Central railroad, and was one of the contractors who built the penitentiary at Fort Madison. Removing to Keokuk in 1847, he assisted Gen. Samuel R. Curtis in the surveys for the Des Moines River Improvement. He was employed upon this work for eleven years and was during a portion of this time city engineer of Keokuk. He was prominent in projecting and building some of our early railroads. In 1878 he was appointed Assistant U. S. Engineer and brevetted Major. Thereafter his service was on the upper lakes and at Fort Snelling.

ALEXANDER C. BONDURANT was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, December 1, 1829; he died at his home in the town of Bondurant, Polk county, September 17, 1899. He was a pioneer farmer of the capital county, in which he settled in 1857. When he came to Iowa he purchased 320 acres of land, but at the time of death his estate had increased to 3,000 acres. Mr. Bondurant was a man of large ability, who, through honorable dealing, enterprise and public spirit, achieved a proud position in Polk county. He was a leading member of the Christian church, one of the builders of Drake University, and the founder of the flourishing village which bears his name.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A BEAUTIFUL LIFE AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS. By Anna Howell Clarkson. Illustrated. New York: Published under the auspices of the Historical Department of Iowa, 1899.

It has been understood during the past two or three years by the author's friends, that she was writing a book, but if its subject was known it was only to a very few. While its main thought is an affectionate tribute to Mrs. Drusilla Allen Stoddard, who was long the almost idolized head of the ladies department of the Iowa Central University, at Pella, the work becomes incidentally a history of that admirable institution of learning and of the always thrifty, prosperous and cultured community in which it is located. It is a notable contribution to the early educational history of our State. Its tribute to the 124 young men—teachers and students—who enlisted from the college in the war for the Union—of whom ten were killed and fourteen died in hospitals—will be a perpetual incentive to like patriotic sacrifices. The book is a repository of local and state biography, illustrated with one hundred fine portraits, among which we recognize the faces of many who have attained more than State reputations. The author makes a strong, and we believe, an unanswerable plea, for the small college. We deem it one of the best books ever produced by an Iowan, and deserving a place in every public and private library in the State.

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.