

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

NOTABLE DEATHS

GEORGE ANSON JEWETT was born near Red Rock, Marion County, Iowa, September 9, 1847, and died in Des Moines July 15, 1934. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery. His parents were George Enoch and Patty Maria (Matthews) Jewett. He attended public school at Red Rock and when he was ten years old the family removed to Pella. He was graduated with the degree of Ph. B. from Central College, Pella, in 1864, and from Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Chicago, in 1865. In 1865 he walked to Des Moines and soon became a bookkeeper for Brown, Beatty & Spofford, agricultural implement dealers, held the position eight years, becoming manager of the company. In 1873 he organized the Des Moines Scale Company and was its manager. The same year he also entered the lumber business as manager for H. F. Getchel & Sons. In 1879 he organized the lumber company of Ewing, Jewett & Chandler which became in 1906 the Jewett Lumber Company, of which he was president and manager. He was also president of the Jewett Realty Company. In 1888 he organized the Jewett Typewriter Company and for twenty years gave attention to marketing the typewriter both in America and Europe. In 1887 he founded and edited the *Christian Worker*, a monthly religious and social paper, and continued it until his last brief illness. He was one of the founders in 1881 of Drake University and since then was a member of the Board of Trustees, and as its secretary signed the diplomas of all graduates, approximately 10,000, since the University's beginning. He was founder and president of the Jewett Family in America, an organization the headquarters of which is in New England. From April, 1923, he was secretary of the Iowa State Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and editor of the *Old Continental* and became one of the most expert genealogists in the country. In 1892 Drake University conferred on him the degree of LL.D., and in 1922 Central College gave him the degree of A. M. An honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa was conferred on him a few years ago by the Drake chapter, which indicated the estimation his friends had of him as a scholar. His activities and interests carried him into many fields. He was a successful business man, organizer, builder, promoter, student, scholar, church worker, and benefactor.

LAWRENCE DEGRAFF was born at Apple River, Illinois, June 24, 1871, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, June 7, 1934. Burial was in the Des Moines Masonic Cemetery. His parents were Hiram and Sarah (Eplett) DeGraff. He was graduated from Dixon College, Dixon, Illinois, with the

degree of A. B. in 1892; from Illinois College of Law, with the degrees of LL. B. and LL. M. in 1896; and from the University of Chicago with the degree of Ph. B. in 1898. He began practice in Chicago in 1896 but in 1898 removed to Des Moines and became secretary of and an instructor in Highland Park College of Law. In 1902 he became the junior member of the firm of Miller (Jesse A.), Wallingford (J. D.) & DeGraff, but in October, 1903, was appointed assistant attorney general under C. W. Mullan and served in that position until January 1, 1907. Having been elected county attorney of Polk County in November, 1906, he served three years, or until he was appointed by Governor Carroll January 3, 1910, judge of the District Court. He served as judge until elevated to the Supreme Court January 1, 1921, having been elected the previous November. This position he retained until December 31, 1932, having been defeated in the election of the previous November. Judge DeGraff was a scholarly man and a popular jurist. He was the author of *Outlines of American Government*, 1898; *Outlines in Economics*, 1900; and *Pharmacy Law*, 1916.

HENRY SILWOLD was born in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, January 12, 1860, and died in Newton, Iowa, April 28, 1934. Burial was in the cemetery of St. John's Evangelical Church in the country near Newton. His parents were Henry and Charlotte (Depping) Silwold. They removed from Wisconsin to Malaka Township, Jasper County, Iowa, in 1866. The son Henry helped on the farm during crop seasons, and attended public school in the country during winters, later took a preparatory course at Hazel Dell Academy, Newton, entered Drake University in 1885 and was graduated in 1890. He then began the study of law in the office of W. O. McElroy at Newton, was admitted to the bar in 1892 and began practice at Baxter. In 1898 he removed to Newton. In March, 1900, he was appointed county attorney of Jasper County to succeed W. O. McElroy, resigned, and the fall of 1901 was nominated by the Republicans for that office, was elected and served until January 1, 1904. Governor Carroll appointed him a judge of the Sixth Judicial District to succeed Byron W. Preston and he assumed the duties January 1, 1913. In 1914 he was elected for a full term and served until December 31, 1918. He then returned to the practice in Newton which he continued up to a short time before his death. He was honorable in his profession and in his official duties, as well as in his private life. He was scholarly, interested in local history, and was an occasional contributor to the ANNALS.

HARRY MATTINGLY COWPER ("Holmes Cowper") was born in Dundas, Ontario, Canada, March 4, 1870, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, July 2, 1934. Burial was in Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines. His parents were Roland Frederick and Sara Ann (Bishop) Cowper. He attended Quaker College, Pickering, Ontario, and studied music in London under

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.