

to the memory of these auditing commissioners is this — that they enjoyed to the fullest extent the confidence of Samuel J. Kirkwood, our illustrious War Governor.

Col. Dewey was born in Hanover, N. H., Feb. 3, 1814; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 9, 1889. He had studied civil engineering, which profession he followed for ten years in the employ of railroad companies in New England and New York. He settled in Des Moines in 1855, where he was engaged in engineering, surveying, and dealing in real estate. He was a business man of large capacity and experience, standing high in the confidence of his wide circle of acquaintance. He was often chosen to positions of public trust in the city where he lived, and was one of the first board of capitol commissioners, but his most important service was performed under the law quoted above. When he passed away, aside from an appreciative notice by his friend James S. Clarkson, but little attention was given to the event, because, no doubt, his days of usefulness were long past and his life for many years had been a quiet one. But the State has had few abler and certainly no more upright and conscientious public servant. Col. Schuyler R. Ingham "still lives," a resident, we believe, of New York City. He has been widely known more than a quarter of a century as a business man of great ability, especially successful in the management of large operations.

ESTIMATES OF JUDGE SPRINGER.

The addresses and other proceedings upon the occasion of the presentation of Judge Francis Springer's portrait were too voluminous to be published in our pages. We have therefore made some selections from the letters received in response to invitations. The first selection is the brief letter, evidently written by a tremulous hand, of Hon. Henry J. Skiff, a member of the constitutional convention of 1857, representing the counties of Poweshiek, Jasper, Marshall and Tama:

NEWTON, MAY 5.

The infirmities of my 81 years force me to send regrets for my inability to be present at the unveiling of the portrait of the old president, Francis Springer, May 7, which you very kindly invited me to attend.

Very truly yours,

H. J. SKIFF.

Judge W. I. Babb, of Mt. Pleasant, wrote as follows:

In 1867, when I was admitted to the bar, Judge Springer was the judge of this district, and the earliest years of my practice were in his court. He was always somewhat dignified and reserved in manner, but really kind and courteous in his intercourse with all, but more markedly so with the younger members of the bar. He was an upright, able and impartial judge and at all times commanded the fullest confidence of the bar and the general public. He always honored Iowa when he served her, and she does right in honoring his memory now.

The following sentence is from the response of Hon. G. W. Ball, State senator from Johnson county:

Judge Springer was an honored citizen and his services to the State have engraved his name high on the roll of her eminent citizens, and it is just and proper that his portrait should be hung by the side of theirs in the art gallery of the Historical Department.

Hon. F. M. Molsberry, State senator from Louisa and Mascatawa counties, wrote us as follows from his home at Columbus Junction:

The Hon. Francis Springer was a character whom nearly every one in this county knew personally, and to know him was to respect and admire him for his many excellent qualities. It was not my pleasure to know him until toward the close of his long and eventful career; on several occasions, however, it was my privilege to talk to him and with him about the practice of the law in the early days of our statehood, and as he talked, in his kind, genial manner, it was truly an inspiration to the youthful practitioner, and could not help but create a desire on the part of the struggling young lawyer to emulate such an eminent jurist and just judge. I remember him as a genial, kind, lovable character, not at all ostentatious, always ready to aid those in need of his assistance, and nothing seemed to give him more pleasure during the declining years of his life than to discourse with the young lawyer, and by so doing instill into his mind some of the principles which should guide him in the practice of the profession. So far as I personally am concerned I shall not count as lost the time thus occupied with our deceased friend. Judge Springer's influence certainly had much to do in forming the early history of the State, and it is a matter of pride to all the citizens of this county, and particularly this village, that so honored and honorable a gentleman should have resided here. We feel that it is very fitting that his portrait should adorn the walls of the historical building, and we appreciate the very valuable gift of his heirs, and shall always feel that we have a peculiar interest in the history and historical building of the State.

Hon. John F. Dillon, one of the most distinguished Iowa jurists, but now a resident of New York City, wrote as follows:

For nearly two generations Judge Springer was a citizen of Iowa, and for more than a generation a distinguished and even eminent citizen. He was held in great esteem, not only for his ability and learning, but also for his irreproachable private character and sterling worth in all the attributes of a good citizen. He left to his family and to the State the priceless possession of an unspotted record. When I was a member of the supreme court of Iowa Judge Springer's decisions sometimes came before us for review. I am able to state the high opinion which all the judges of that court had of Judge Springer's learning and judicial ability. There was a strong presumption that any decision or judgment by Judge Springer was correct, and it so proved, for he was rarely reversed. I am glad that his memory is held in respect by the people of Iowa.

Letters were also received from Mayor James Brenton of Des Moines, Col. G. W. Crosley of Webster City, Col. W. S. Dungan of Chariton, Hon. Charles Linderman of Clarinda, ex-clerk of the supreme court, Hon. Eugene Secor of Forest City, Newton R. Parvin of Cedar Rapids, Hon. Isaac Brandt of Des Moines, Prof. B. F. Shambaugh of Iowa City, and others.

A VALUABLE COUNTY HISTORY.

There has lately been issued from the Kenyon Press, Des Moines, a History of Dickinson County, Iowa, which we believe will take rank among the valuable works of local history hitherto published in our State. It was written by Hon. Rodney A. Smith, a pioneer settler, who has resided on the bank of West Okoboji lake since the massacre of the settlers in 1857. Mr. Smith was a soldier in the relief expedition of 1857, and represented Dickinson, Emmett, Palo Alto and Clay counties in the twelfth general assembly. He is, with a single exception, the oldest living resident of that county. No man could be better informed upon the history of that region, "all of which he saw and part of which he was." During the intervening years—more than the lifetime of a generation—he has collected the data for this his life-work. The county and its thriving towns and villages have grown up under his observation. For many years he knew the most of its people and has always been constantly in touch with its growing interests. While he makes no pretension to scholarship, his work tells a continuous story of growth and development, progress and improvement, from the days of the white settlements which immediately followed the Indian troubles until the present time. Its 600 pages are a repository of facts.

The work opens with a full history of the Indian troubles of that region, of which the massacre and relief expedition were the chief features. This narrative fills eleven of the chapters. Mr. Smith has copied freely from the writings of other observers, as Gov. C. C. Carpenter, Hon. John F. Duncombe, Capt. Charles B. Richards, Lieut. John N. Maxwell, W. K. Laughlin, Mrs. Sharp, and the pages of *THE ANNALS OF IOWA*, but always with due credit.

The settlement and organization of the county run through five chapters and are especially full and complete.

Five or six chapters are devoted to Indian troubles in the northwest during the civil war, including the service of the border brigade. After the civil war the resumption of settlement was like beginning anew.

Another interesting episode was the grasshopper invasion, which occupies two chapters, and here again the author copies from the graphic account of Gov. Carpenter.

Six chapters are devoted to the various towns in the county, of which Spirit Lake is the foremost.

There is a very interesting chapter on railroads, detailing at length the efforts of the people to have them extended into that region.

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