

Fork". Mr. Cooper at once became most active and enterprising in the work of opening up the new settlement. It is recorded that he was the proprietor of the first threshing machine, and a partner in the first reaper, that were brought to this section of central Iowa. He was also one of the leading contractors and builders of those early years—a useful, public spirited citizen, who became a large factor in founding the capital city. Aside from these characteristics, he was personally popular, enjoying the esteem and confidence of the early settlers. He removed to California some years ago, where he resided up to the time of his death. He is survived by three children—Mrs. F. M. Hubbell and Mrs. W. H. Ginn of Des Moines, Iowa, and Mr. Fenimore Cooper of Oleta, California. Mr. Cooper's remains were brought to Des Moines for interment with the other members of his family. His funeral was largely attended by the surviving early settlers of Polk county.

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Mrs. L. J. CHURCH was born in Richland county, Ohio, Oct. 27, 1828; she died at Blaine, in the State of Washington, Aug. 19, 1902. She was one of the well known early settlers of Hamilton county, Iowa, and was a woman of much force of character and great amiability, an especial favorite with the pioneers. She was married to the late William L. Church some time prior to 1855. They came to Springfield (now Jackson), Minn., in 1856, a few months prior to the Indian raid upon the settlements at Spirit and Okoboji Lakes. After that affair the Indians went to Springfield where they besieged the few settlers who had assembled in the house of J. B. Thomas for defense. A statement of that affair, with the attempted flight of the settlers towards the south, was given in THE ANNALS for October, 1898, as stated by Mrs. Church. She fired at one of the Indians, who was seen to fall, and there can be little doubt that she killed him. The Indians then withdrew and the little band of white people started south at midnight with only an ox team. Their march was one of excessive toil and exposure and they could hardly have survived the inclement weather had they not been met the next day by the rescue party from the Spirit Lake Expedition. The flight of these refugees was one of the most thrilling episodes of that affair. (See ANNALS OF IOWA, 3d series, Vol. III, pp. 546-8.)

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LEVI L. HOAG was born in Greene county, N. Y., April 10, 1830; he died at West Vienna, N. Y., Nov. 18, 1901. He removed to Iowa in March, 1855, residing in Scott and Cedar counties until the beginning of the war of the Rebellion. He enlisted in Company C of the Twenty-fourth Iowa Volunteers, and became the color bearer of the regiment. He began to keep a brief journal of the movements and doings of the regiment from the day it left camp at Muscatine for the seat of war. He made an entry in his diary *every day* until the regiment was mustered out of service at the close of the war. Every camp, march, skirmish, and battle is therein recorded. He carried the flag in every one of its twenty battles, and strangely escaped the flying bullets. He was always on duty and was esteemed one of the best and bravest soldiers of that famous command. He was in all respects a fine type of the Iowa soldiers who won imperishable renown for our State. His war diary has been of inestimable service to the historians of the Twenty-fourth and other regiments of the brigade, in fixing dates; and has been present as a valuable reference at some of the regimental reunions. We understand that this rare manuscript will come to the Iowa Historical Department at no distant day.

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JOHN WHITTEN was born at Business Corner, Van Buren county, Iowa, Aug. 4, 1842; he died at Farmington, Iowa, Sept. 7, 1902. He remained at home with his parents until the breaking out of the civil war, when he en-

listed in company H, 15th Iowa Infantry. Not long after his muster into the service he was detailed as one of the color guard. He succeeded the color bearer who was shot down at the battle of Missionary Ridge, where his whole regiment was captured. With his comrades he was marched to Andersonville prison, where he suffered untold tortures from starvation, vermin, scurvy, and filth. After his liberation he was discharged, having been in the army four years and seven months. He served his county two terms as auditor, and was deputy state treasurer of Iowa for three terms, also holding many other positions of honor and trust, in all of which he proved himself competent and thoroughly trustworthy. His funeral took place at Farmington, Iowa, Sept. 8. His remains were borne to the cemetery by the members of the G. A. R., who buried him with the honors of the order.

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JOHN WILLIAMSON was born at Penrith, England, Dec. 25, 1822; he died at Fairfield, Iowa, July 24, 1902. He learned the trade of a weaver in the old country, and migrated to America in 1851. He and his wife worked in the cotton mills of New England the first four years after their arrival in the United States. In 1855 they came to Iowa, settling near the city of Fairfield. Mr. Williamson was an eloquent speaker, and became prominent and influential in the politics of that region. He served in the 19th General Assembly as a member of the house, and for a number of years was a member of the board of supervisors of his county. He is spoken of as a "warm-hearted, impulsive man, generous and honest." He enjoyed the high esteem of a wide circle of friends in Jefferson and adjoining counties.

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BENJAMIN GREENE was born in Otsego county, N. Y., March 4, 1819; he died in Adel, Iowa, June 18, 1902. At the age of 18 Mr. Greene went to Belvidere, Ill., and spent four years with a brother. He returned to New York, studied law and taught school until 1846. Early in 1849 he arrived in Adel, having stopped for a time at Keokuk where he taught school. He was among the first settlers of Dallas county, and has been identified with its development and progress. He was a man of marked business ability and integrity and had filled various local offices in town and county. In early days he was school fund commissioner, and for several years was chairman of the board of supervisors. He was a member of the house of representatives in the 4th and 6th general assemblies.

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FRANK TALCOTT PIPER was born in Maquoketa, Jackson county, Iowa, July 19, 1856; he died in Los Angeles, Cal., April 20, 1902. When a child his parents removed to Green Springs, Ohio, but in 1868 the family returned to Iowa, locating in Buena Vista county. In 1870 he began newspaper work and was successively employed on *The Newell Times*, *Le Mars Sentinel* and *Cherokee Times* and *Leader*. In 1873 he located at Sheldon where he afterward published *The Mail and Times*. Mr. Piper was postmaster of Sheldon during President Harrison's administration. In 1895 he became a candidate for senator in the 49th district, but was defeated. He was mayor of Sheldon from 1898 to 1900.

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JAMES RANEY, aged 83 years, died at his home in Belle Plaine, Iowa, Aug. 19, 1902. During the civil war he was colonel of the Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and was brevetted brigadier-general at the time of his muster-out. For some years after he came to Iowa he resided in Adair county, where he served as county clerk eight or ten years, besides filling several other official stations. From that time forward he was engaged in merchandising in Belle Plaine up to the time of his death.

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