

CARL WILHELM VON COELLN was born in Westphalia, Germany, August 31, 1830; he died at his home in New London, Iowa, April 20, 1913. He attended the public schools in his native town, later the gymnasium at Hereford and the University of Bonn. He served one year in the German army. In 1855 he emigrated to the United States, taking passage in a sailing vessel which reached New York after a voyage of fifty-two days. He soon removed to Ohio where he spent one year on a dairy farm and five years teaching in private schools and academies in Ashtabula, Trumbull and Summit counties. In 1861 he removed to Des Moines and taught in the public schools six months and then opened an academy in Cascade, Dubuque county. He was professor of mathematics in Iowa College, Grinnell, for seven years, and then removed to Kidder, Missouri, where he remained a year and a half, coming back to Iowa to teach in the Waterloo public schools. From 1876 to 1882 Mr. von Coelln served as state superintendent of public instruction. At the expiration of his public work he taught at Denison, and later was in the employ of D. Appleton & Co., publishers of school books. In 1892 he removed to Storm Lake where he served as professor of mathematics in Buena Vista College for four and a half years and then retired from active life for a number of years. From 1902 to 1904 Mr. von Coelln served as county superintendent of schools in Crawford county. In the spring of 1904 he removed to New London and entered the newspaper field as editor of the *Farmer-Times* and continued in that position until his death. He always took an active interest in the educational affairs of the State, framed many of the school laws now in force, and was known as the "father of the Iowa school laws." He served as president of the school board of New London and was an able editor.

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JOSHUA MONROE SHAFFER was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1830; he died at Keokuk, Iowa, March 25, 1913. He entered Washington and Jefferson College at the age of thirteen years, and graduated in 1848 with the degree of A. B. In 1849 he began the study of medicine with his brother, John E. Shaffer, at Elizabeth, and attended lectures at the University of Pennsylvania. He came to Iowa in 1852, locating in Fairfield, where he practiced medicine. In 1862 the honorary degree of M. D. was conferred upon him by the State University of Iowa. He became interested in the organization of the Iowa State Agricultural Society in 1853, and served as secretary in 1854 and 1855 and again from 1863 to 1873. In 1863 he was appointed surgeon of the board of enrollment for the First Congressional District of Iowa, and examined over five thousand men preparatory to their admission to the army. He was appointed commissioner from Iowa to the Paris Exposition in 1867, but as no expense fund was provided by the State he resigned. He was Senator from Jefferson county in the Ninth and Ninth extra General Assemblies. In 1874 he removed to Keokuk to act as secretary of the Iowa Life Insurance Company, and held that position as long as the Company existed. During the years 1876 and 1877 he lectured at the Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Shaffer was a lifelong student of natural history and made numerous large collections. His collection of birds shows his skill as a taxidermist and he was well known

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