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CHARLES R. CLARK.

(From the Montezuma Republican).

Charles R. Clark was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, December 28, 1842, and died in Montezuma, November 7, 1920, at the age of 77 years, 10 months and 9 days. His boyhood days were spent on the farm, with his parents and at the age of 17 he became a student in the academy at New Hampton, later entering Kimball Union Academy at Meridan, N. H., where he graduated in the class of 1863. After teaching for several terms in the Granite state and in Massachusetts he came west to Janesville, Wisconsin, and in 1866 was made principal of the schools at Le Claire, Scott county, Iowa. In the fall of the same year Mr. Clark came to Montezuma and for twelve years was superintendent of the schools. Educational interests were greatly promoted by his zeal and through sincere efforts to embody in the work lofty ideals and practical suggestions. At odd times he studied law, in 1878 was admitted to practice, resigned his position in the schools, and entered partnership with W. R. Lewis, dean of the Poweshiek county bar. This partnership was maintained until 1881 when Mr. Lewis was elected judge of the district court. Mr. Clark became associated with Thomas A. Cheshire, this firm being dissolved in 1887 upon the latter's removal to Des Moines. Since that time Mr. Clark was alone until his son, C. W., was admitted to practice and became a member of the firm of Clark & Clark.

The deceased did not confine himself to the practice of law. In this field he met with conspicuous success but found time to handle real estate and at one time owned several hundred acres of Poweshiek county soil, some of which he sold last year during the boom. Commercial and industrial interests also felt the stimulus of his co-operation. He assisted in organizing the electric light company, later sold to the McKinley system. He served at one time as a director of First National Bank, and at the time of his death was an officer of the Montezuma Savings Bank.

It would be difficult to write of the progress of Montezuma, of the many changes that have taken place in the past half century or more without mentioning the name of C. R. Clark. He came west to grow up with the country and became thoroughly imbued with the western spirit, vigor and vision and of all these he gave freely that the town and country might grow. He was a man of strong convictions and tender sympathies. His influence was ever for right as he was given the light to see it. At all times considerate of the feelings and welfare of others he was never heard to pass severe criticism upon those who differed from him.

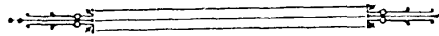
Mr. Clark was a splendid type of citizen. He typified the old fashioned virtues, kind, courtly, modest and without jealousy.

The deceased was superintendent of the M. E. Sunday school of Montezuma for 52 consecutive years. This is no doubt a record not excelled in Iowa and perhaps not in the United States.

Mr. Clark was a member of Lafayette lodge, No. 52, A. F. & A. M. at Montezuma. He was a life long Christian, from his early youth a member of the church; keeping his membership in the Baptist church at Rumney, New Hampshire. On coming to Montezuma he chose to worship with the Methodist people, and so gave himself to worship and service in that body that he was considered in every way as one of the membership.

Very few Sundays in 52 years he missed and his school has grown in numbers and interest with the years of service, last year being the banner year of the school. He was at his death also the chairman of the board of trustees, and was ever attentive to the needs of the church. During the time in which the church was in progress of construction he was the chairman of the building committee, and his painstaking care and foresight had much to do with the location, comfort and beauty of the building.

Mr. Clark was twice married — in 1869 at Davenport with Miss A. E. Townley of Massachusetts, who died in 1902; in 1905 to Miss Marian Hall of Massachusetts. To the first union one son was born, C. W. Clark, who with the second wife survives. One brother, M. J. Clark, of Ames, also survives.



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CHARLES R. CLARK, a very prominent and popular member of the legal profession in Poweshiek County, Iowa, is the subject of this sketch. The first record of the family in America finds them in Massachusetts, from which State the great-grandfather removed to New Hampshire, and in Windham, in that State, Robert Clark, the grandfather of our subject, was born. In time he grew to manhood and became one of the prominent business men of the town of Acworth, N. H., there managing saw and grist mills, also a store, and later he engaged in manufacturing at Acworth, his life ending in that town. Amos Clark, the father of our subject, was born in Acworth, and grew up under his father's roof, assisting him in his various enterprises, but later removed to Plymouth, in the same State, where he remained as long as he lived. He was a Captain in the New Hampshire State militia and lived to about the age of seventy-nine years.

The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Leura Hall. She was born in Windham County, Vt., a daughter of Justus Hall, a farmer and cabinet-maker of that county. Mrs. Clark died at the age of sixty-nine years, three of her five children surviving her. Our subject was born at Plymouth, N. H., on the 28th of December, 1842, and remained at home engaged in agricultural pursuits until he was seventeen years old. His primary education had been carefully attended to

and at the above age he entered the academy at New Hampton, following a course there. Subsequently he entered Kimball Union Academy, at Meriden, N. H., and was graduated from this institution in 1863.

After teaching several terms in New Hampshire and Massachusetts our subject came Westward and located at Janesville, Wis., but January 1, 1866, he became the principal of a school at Le Claire, Scott County, Iowa, remaining until the fall, when he came to Montezuma and became the principal of the public schools of this place and held that position for twelve years, only resigning his position to begin his practice at the Bar, having during these years prepared himself for this step. In April, 1878, he was admitted to the Iowa Bar, immediately forming a partnership with Judge W. R. Lewis, and continuing until 1881, when the latter was called to the Bench. Then our subject formed another partnership, this time with Thomas A. Clieshire, this continuing until 1887, at which time the latter removed to Des Moines and Mr. Clark has been alone, dealing in real estate as well as conducting a successful law practice.

Every town and city has a few energetic, progressive men within its borders, who can look ahead and see the advantages which will accrue from an outlay of means in the improvement and adornment of their sections. Among this class in Montezuma Mr. Clark has taken a very prominent position, he being one of the organizers by whom an electric light plant was secured for the city. In September, 1888, he assisted in organizing the electric light company with a capital of \$6,000, which has been enlarged from time to time until now the city has six hundred lights, and the efficient secretary of the company is our subject. Another important business enterprise in which our subject was much interested was the Vulcan Coal Company, which in 1881 opened and developed the What Cheer Mine, having headquarters at this place.

Mr. Clark is one of the Directors of the Savings Bank of this city. Although his business cares are many, the social side of the life of our subject is not neglected, he being a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Iowa, in which or-

ganization he has been a member of the committee on the laws of the State Association for the past three years, and in the Iowa Legion of Honor has been a member of the executive or finance committees since 1881, besides filling the local offices in all of the different lodges.

The marriage of Mr. Clark took place in Davenport, Iowa, in 1869, to Miss A. E. Townsley, a native of Massachusetts, and a lady who was educated in that State. One child has been born of this marriage, Charles W., who is now a student in the Iowa College, being a member of the sophomore class. The politics of our subject is Republican. His interest in church and Sunday-school work has made him well known to many of the earnest workers throughout the State. For twenty-two years he has been Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday-school at Montezuma, Iowa. In his law office in the Centennial Block of the city of Montezuma may be found this pleasant, genial gentleman, and when he is met the visitor may be sure that in him he sees one of the most honest and best of the citizens of this section of the county.

CLARK, CHARLES R.—Was born at Plymouth, New Hampshire, December 28, 1842. The first fifteen years of his life were passed on a farm. He entered Kimball Union Academy, and graduated therefrom in 1853, when he became a school-teacher, which profession he followed in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Wisconsin, until 1865, when he came to Scott county, Iowa, and began teaching at Le Claire, where he remained until August, 1866, when he came to Montezuma, and became the superintendent of public schools, which position he occupied twelve years. During the school vacations he read law and fitted himself for admission to the bar, and was admitted in April, 1878. In May following, he formed the partnership of Lewis & Clark. He possesses idomitable perseverance, a well-cultured, evenly-balanced mind, is courteous and affable in manner, and is distinguished for his nobility of character. He was married at Davenport, in September, 1869, to Miss A. E. Tousley, of Shelborne Falls, Massachusetts. To them has been born one son, Charles W.