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Biographical Notices of Henry Martyn Atkinson, J.  
L. Mitchell, Thomas B. Edwards, Sterling Perry  
Majors, William D. Gage, Harrison Johnson, Geo.  
B. Graff, Frank J. North, Maria Tiernan Murphy,  
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Hugus

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**Biographical Notices of:**

Henry Martyn Atkinson

J. L. Mitchell

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Geo. B. Graff

Frank J. North

Maria Tiernan Murphy

Antoine Barada

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Hawke

Peter Hugus (by Robt. W. Patrick)

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taught the first bible class. In 1877 she and her husband united with the Presbyterian church at Nebraska City, there being no U. P. church there.

For three years before her death she was unable, because of physical weakness and failing sight, to attend church.

While rising from her seat in her sitting room, on the afternoon of January 19, 1886, to receive some visitors, she fell, fracturing the right thigh bone, the fall being caused by a paralytic stroke of the lower limbs. She lingered until the afternoon of February 5, bearing her suffering with great fortitude and with full possession of all her reasoning faculties, and conscious until a few hours of her death, which she, like a good and true christian, calmly awaited, sleeping quietly and sweetly away without pain or struggle.

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### HENRY MARTYN ATKINSON

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Was born in Wheeling, Virginia, September 9, 1838. His parents moved to Licking county, Ohio, when Henry was five years old. He was educated in Connecticut, at Denison University. He came to Brownville, Nebraska, in the spring of 1857. His first work in Nebraska was at the carpenter business. He then taught school, and afterwards read law in the office of E. W. Thomas, and was admitted to the bar in 1861. In 1862 he entered the military service of the United States, as adjutant of the 2d Nebraska Cavalry. Afterwards he was assistant provost marshal of the district of Nebraska. Was mustered out of service at Omaha, in 1864, resuming the practice of law. In 1867 he was appointed register of the U. S. Nemaha land office at Brownville. From 1871 to 1873 he was engaged in railroad construction from Brownville west. In 1873 President Grant appointed him a member of the Mexican border commission, and afterwards U. S. commissioner of pensions. In 1879 he resigned that position, and was appointed U. S. surveyor general at Santa Fe, New Mexico, serving in that position for two terms, after which he engaged in the practice of law, until his death, October 17, 1886.

In 1865 he was married to Miss Kate, daughter of Ex-Senator T.

W. Tipton, of Brownville. Four children were born of this marriage; one only, Miss Alice, is living. Mrs. Atkinson died in the fall of 1872. In 1881 Mr. Atkinson married Miss Ada J. Irwin, of Lincoln, Neb., who survives him. Three children were born of this marriage. Two only are living.

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### J. L. MITCHELL.

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Judge J. L. Mitchell, while not of the early settlers more particularly aimed to be embraced in this volume, on account of his official position is entitled to be recorded at this time.

He was born at Belleville, Hendricks county, Ind., October 18, 1834. He went to Sidney, Iowa, in 1856, and in 1858 there began the practice of law. In 1862 he assisted in raising the 29th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, for the suppression of the rebellion, being at that time a member of the state legislature. He became captain of Company E, same regiment, and served until August, 1864, when he was mustered out of service on account of wounds received at the battle of Jenkins Ferry, Ark. In 1875 he came to Nebraska City, and four years after was elected to the legislature, where he served as chairman of the committee on railroads. When the additional judgeship of the second judicial district was created, he was appointed by Gov. Dawes, in 1885, judge to fill the position. The following November he was elected to the same position, which he held at the time of his death. He died at Des Moines, Iowa, February 25, 1886, where he had gone to attend a reunion of the ex-members of the legislature. He dropped dead of apoplexy of the heart, while addressing the reunion. He was married in August, 1861, at Sidney, Iowa, where his first wife died in 1880. Two daughters were born of the first marriage. He was married again in Indiana, in 1884. One child, a son, was born of the second marriage.

In politics, the judge was a republican; in religion, a Presbyterian.

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**THOMAS B. EDWARDS**

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Was born near Livingston, Overton county, Tenn., February 16, 1820. In 1828 he went to Illinois. In 1883, to Iowa, where he married Miss Rebecca Ashpaugh. Then went to Oregon, Mo., and in 1854 came to Brownville, Neb. He built the first house at Brownville, and his wife was the first white woman in Brownville. He resided in Brownville and vicinity for thirty-one years. He was a minister of the Christian denomination for thirty-five years. He died suddenly, September 23, 1885, at Bradshaw, Neb., while on his way to Sherman county. His wife and seven children survive him.

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**STERLING PERRY MAJORS**

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Was born near Franklin, Simpson county, Kentucky, April 27, 1819. Worked on a farm until sixteen years old. Then engaged in the brick and stone mason trade. In 1837 went to West Point, Lee county, Iowa, where he remained until 1838, when he removed to Jefferson county, in the same state. In 1850 he went to Liberty, Iowa, where he engaged in mercantile business. Here he continued until 1857. From there he removed to a point on a line between Missouri and Iowa, where he remained only six months. From there he came to Peru, Nemaha county, Nebraska. He was admitted to the bar and practiced law at Fairfield a year or more before coming to Nebraska. He continued in the mercantile business until 1866, when he engaged more particularly in stock raising. Politically he was originally a democrat, up to the formation of the republican party. He was president of the first Nebraska constitutional convention. In 1871 he was a member of the legislature from Nemaha county, and the same year was again a member of the constitutional convention. Through his efforts in the legislature, the state normal school owes much of its present prosperous and permanent condition. From his youth he was a member of the Methodist church.

At the age of twenty years he was married to Miss Annie Brown, also of Kentucky. Eleven children were born of this marriage, five of whom are living. His two sons, Thomas and Wilson, served in the Union army during the late war.

He died July 16, 1886, at Ainsworth, Brown county, Nebraska, where he was visiting his son John, who, with his father, at the time owned a cattle ranch.

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### WILLIAM D. GAGE.

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Rev. William D. Gage was born in Pennsylvania, Dec. 5, 1803. Was an orphan at six years of age. Learned the shoemaking trade, at which he worked until twenty-one years of age. At that age he became a Methodist minister, remaining in active service until 1856. The date of his arrival in Nebraska we have not been able to obtain. He was chaplain of both branches of the first Nebraska legislature in 1854. During his ministerial service he was a member of the New York, Illinois, Arkansas, Kansas, and Nebraska conferences. He was the first Methodist minister to preach in Nebraska. He married Miss Sarah Schoonmaker at Flatbush, N. Y., New Year's Day, 1832. Seven children were born to the marriage, three daughters living. He died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Bailey, at Weeping Water, Neb., Nov. 20, 1885, aged near eighty-two years. During his life he was an active, useful man, in and out of his profession. His daughter, Mrs. Bailey, to whom we are indebted for his biography, writing us, closes with this beautiful sentence referring to her father: "When the waters of the dark river of death were laving his feet, as he left the shore of time, he called his loved ones around him and bade them farewell; then, with a shout of joy for the mercies of his Redeemer, he plunged into the turbulent waters, which had no terror for him, and ascended the shore on the other side, to meet those 'gone before.'"

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### HARRISON JOHNSON

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Was born near Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 18, 1822. Married Miss Minerva Hambright, in Montgomery county, Illinois, in 1843. From there he went to Columbia, Mo., and from there to Pike county, Illinois. In 1854 he came to Omaha, Nebraska, where he resided until the

spring of 1880, when he removed to Brown county,\* Nebraska, near Johnstown, where he died October 6, 1885. The family consisted of ten children—seven sons and three daughters.

Mr. Johnson, being one of the first settlers in the territory, an active participant in all that was going on, became well acquainted with its history. He published the first "History of Nebraska;" also a number of other volumes. He was a deep thinker, good scholar and writer. He was widely and favorably known all over the state, in the advancement and development of which he always took a lively interest.

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### GEO. B. GRAFF.

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Dr. Geo. B. Graff was born at Hagerstown, Maryland, May 10, 1816. October 31, 1844, he and Miss Margaret Amanda Stantment were married at Princeton, Indiana. The family came to Dakota City, Nebraska, April, 1859, the doctor having been appointed by President Buchanan to the land office in that place. At the expiration of his term of office he went to Omaha, where he established himself in the hardware business in partnership with Mr. R. C. Jordan, under the firm name of Graff & Jordan. Subsequently he engaged with Mr. J. N. H. Patrick in the manufacture of brick. Later still he opened a life insurance office, becoming president of a western branch.

For the last ten years of his life he had been interested in Wyoming oil lands, and during the last five years devoted himself to their development. About two weeks before his death he returned from a final test which proved that his faith in the enterprise was fully realized.

He had four children, of which two, a son, Robert, and a daughter, Fannie, died, while his wife and two other sons, Joseph, now in Omaha, and John, at Rawlins, Wyoming, survived him. In all his life Dr. Graff was a tireless and energetic worker, fitted for it, it seemed, by nature. He was of stout build, heavy and rugged, with every indication of robust health. He was a kind-hearted and generous man, beloved by his family and honored by his friends.

## FRANK J. NORTH

Was born in Tompkins county, New York, March 10, 1840. He died at Columbus, Nebraska, March 14, 1885. He was married to Miss Mary L. Smith, of Bristol, Conn., December 25, 1865. Mrs. North died February, 1883. The only child, a daughter, Stella, survives.

Frank North came to Nebraska in the spring of 1856 with his parents. His father was a surveyor, and while so employed perished in a terrific storm near the Papillion river, March 12, 1857. Frank was thus left early in life to assume the duties and responsibilities of maturer years. He discharged the task well. After completing the unfinished work of his father he moved to Florence and soon after to Columbus, this state, where his sturdy pioneer work was continued in various enterprises, mostly farming and freighting. Through his familiarity with the Pawnee language, acquired in his frequent intercourse with the Indians, Mr. North obtained a situation as clerk for the agent of the Pawnee reservation, which he kept until August, 1864, when he began the organization of the company of Pawnee scouts, who were enrolled for ninety days. After completing the organization of the scouts he went out with them under Gen. Samuel Curtis, and served to the expiration of the time as first lieutenant. Gen. Curtis was so favorably impressed with the company and its management that he procured unsolicited a captain's commission to Lieutenant North before they parted. The newly promoted officer immediately set to work recruiting a company of Pawnee scouts, joining, with them, Gen. Conner at Julesburg, thence proceeding upon the Powder river campaign. In this service Capt. North distinguished himself anew. In 1866 he, with the rest of the volunteers, was mustered out. Returning then to Columbus he was appointed trader for the Pawnee agency, but remained only until the following spring, when he was again called to military duty as a major of a battalion which he organized himself, doing duty along the line of the Union Pacific railway every season until 1871, when his troops were mustered out, and the major became post guide and interpreter, serving in this capacity at several military stations. Under personal instructions from



General Sheridan, Major North went in 1876 to the Indian territory and enlisted 100 Pawnee Indians for service in the department of the Platte, where they participated in the capture of Red Cloud and his band, and subsequently went with General Crook in the winter campaign of 1876-7. Soon after he came to Omaha and formed a co-partnership with William F. Cody under the firm name of Cody & North, stockdealers and producers, owning several thousand head of cattle raised mostly in Western Nebraska.

Intrepid, self-reliant, versatile, a true man and a loyal friend, Frank J. North was a specimen of the pioneer who lends quality to a new commonwealth and leaves an impress upon its history which death cannot wipe out.

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### MARIA TIERNAN MURPHY

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Was born, at Martinsburg, Va., August 9, 1800. Her maiden name was Tiernan. She was married to John Murphy, Wellsburg, Va., and died at Omaha, March 8, 1885. She came to Omaha in 1855 from Keokuk, Iowa, with her daughter, who had just married Governor Cuming, her own husband having died on shipboard while returning from California in 1839. She made her home with Mrs. Cuming ever after, and was never out of the territory or state from the time she came. Her son Michael came here in the same year, and her son Frank, the president of the Merchant's National Bank, and her daughter, who married C. W. Hamilton, the banker, arrived in Omaha a year or two later, being in the East at school at the time of the removal of their mother and sister to Omaha. Thus in its very infancy Nebraska was blessed, through the presence of Mrs. Murphy, with the refining and elevating influence that she and her family helped to impart.

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### ANTOINE BARADA.

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Among the many noted Nebraskans gathered to their fathers in the past few years, there were none whose deeds of bravery and adventurous life compare with that of Antoine Barada, who died during the summer of 1866 at the little town which bears his name in Richard-

son county, this state. In many respects he was a remarkable man, and his varied career as chief, captive, trader, scout, and pilot deserve more than passing note.

Antoine Barada was born in 1807 near what is now known as Fort Calhoun, in Washington county. His father, Michael Barada, was a white man and represented the Omaha tribe of Indians at the conference which drafted what is known as the treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1836. His mother was a full-blooded Omaha Indian woman. Antoine had scarcely reached his seventh year when he was captured by the Sioux in one of their forays on the Omahas, and was taken to the camp of the former. His extraordinary physical development at that age made him an object of curiosity to the Sioux and he was spared the fate of his less fortunate companions. Whenever the traders of the early days struck the Sioux village Antoine was kept a close prisoner and every precaution taken to prevent his escape. Two years were thus spent in captivity before opportunity for escape presented itself. While playing some distance from the village the cry of "the traders" was raised. Young Antoine saw his chance for freedom, and fled to the traders, who, after much parleying, purchased his release for ten ponies. Shortly after returning to his parents, Colonel Rogers, of the United States army, secured their consent to take the boy and place him in the military academy. When the colonel and his protege reached St. Louis they were met by Madame Mousette, Antoine's aunt, who took the boy to her home and prevailed upon him to hide and not go to the academy. She was successful, and the colonel was obliged to proceed east without the young Omaha.

The boy remained with his aunt in St. Louis until he reached manhood, employed in various industrial pursuits. During this time he had developed extraordinary muscular powers. Being employed by the firm of Whitnell & Coats as superintendent for their quarries, he had frequent opportunities to prove his wonderful strength. One of his feats was to lift clear eighteen hundred pounds weight.

In the year 1832 Antoine returned to his tribe to visit his parents and the scenes of his childhood. He remained with his tribe for several years, and then returned to St. Louis, where he was married to Josephene Veien, in the year 1836. In 1849 he went overland to California, in company with Capt. Madison Miller and Wilson Hunt, of St. Louis, and remained there six years, returning by way of

Panama and New York. In his journey across the plains and during his stay in California he met with many adventures and incidents. One night he had camped in a small valley. In the morning while going to the little stream for water something attracted his attention up the stream. He followed up, and directly saw a man in the top-most limbs of a small tree, with a huge grizzly bear at the base making the splinters fly with teeth and claws. The old man, quick to perceive that it was only a matter of time as to the bear getting her game, quickly drew up his gun and killed the bear, and looked at the man, expecting to see him quickly descend the tree, but the poor fellow never moved. He was completely paralyzed with fear and was unable to descend. "Well," says Antoine, "if you won't come down, I guess I will have to fetch you down," and up the tree he went after his strange acquaintance. He took him in one arm, and in that way descended safely to the ground with his man. He carried him back to his camp, finished preparing his breakfast, which he had before begun, induced his new friend to partake, stayed in camp a day or two nursing him, and after the poor fellow's nerves had recovered, parted with him with the advice, "When you have to take to a tree, pick one a little larger than that one, and don't drop your gun."

After his return from California, his relatives, hearing of his return, sent word for him to come back to his tribe again. He visited his people again and remained with them a few months, then located in Richardson county, Nebraska, opened a farm, and was among the first to settle that portion of the state.

The country at that time abounded in game, and Antoine's table was always supplied with game in its season. Here he raised a family consisting of three boys and four girls—Michael, William, and Thomas Barada, Mrs. Fulton Peters, Mrs. John Dupree, Mrs. William Provest, and Mrs. John Khun, all of whom survive him.

In 1875 Barada, in company with his son-in-law, Fulton Peters, and a number of his old neighbors, went to the Black Hills, but returned the same year, after many adventures.

During his residence in Richardson county Antoine had frequently visited his tribe, and had always been welcomed and considered one of them. In his last years he had a strong desire to join his tribe, but on his declaring his wish to return, and making his application for his allotment, under the ruling of special United States Agent A.

C. Fletcher and United States Indian Commissioner H. Price, he and his family were refused participation in the allotment of the Omaha lands. This was a source of great sorrow and regret to the old gentleman in his last days.

During his last illness he was patient, uncomplaining, and perfectly resigned; he was well aware of his approaching end; he received the last sacraments of his church and died steadfast in his faith, surrounded by his devoted family

Thus died Antoine Barada, whose kind words, good deeds, and generous acts to friends, acquaintances, and strangers are known and appreciated by hundreds who are scattered from the Missouri to the Pacific. He was buried in the Catholic cemetery, situated just east of the little village of Barada, followed to his last resting place by a large concourse of relatives and friends.

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### MRS. ELIZABETH A. HAWKE

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Was born near Hamburg, Germany, August 12, 1833, and died at Nebraska City, Nebraska, March 27, 1885. Her maiden name was Elizabeth A. Hemme. Her parents came to America in 1840, first to St. Louis, Mo., and in 1843 to Hemme's Landing, on the Missouri river, Atchison county, Mo. April 2, 1851, she and Robert Hawke were married at Rockflat, in the same county. Mr. and Mrs. Hawke came to Nebraska City in April, 1859. Seven children were born of the marriage, four of whom are living, and with the father still reside in Nebraska City.

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### PETER HUGUS.

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PREPARED BY ROBT. W. PATRICK, ESQ.

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Peter Hugus was born at Somerset, Pa., November 7, 1806. Here his boyhood was passed, his early education being obtained at the schools in the vicinity. Among his early acquaintances was Jeremiah Black, who afterwards obtained world-wide fame as a lawyer, and who as an elder schoolmate used to help his younger companion

over the hillocks on the path of learning. In his twenty-third year he moved to Pittsburg, Pa., and entered the employment of John McCormick, a dry goods merchant of that city, whose daughter Eliza he married October 7, 1832. His wife was the half sister of Col. John Patrick, another of the early settlers of Omaha.

On the death of his father-in-law, Peter Hugus succeeded to his business, and for many years conducted one of the largest retail dry goods stores in the city of Pittsburg.

In 1841 he gave up his business in Pittsburg, removing to Canton, Stark county, Ohio, where he resided a few years, engaged in mercantile business. He then moved to Massillon, Ohio, in order to assume the management of a large co-operative store. This he conducted until the year 1857, at which time he removed to Omaha, which city he made his home until his death. He was county clerk and recorder in 1861. At the expiration of his term he became chief clerk of the Hurford hardware house, which position he maintained for fifteen years, during many changes of its ownership, until the house was closed, when the increasing infirmities of old age prevented him from engaging further in active business. He was for eleven years senior warden of Trinity church, Omaha, and died on the 19th day of November, A.D. 1885, at the age of 79 years.

Such is a brief and imperfect sketch of the life of one of the early settlers of Nebraska. It would be difficult to convey to those who knew him not, any idea of his personality. Quiet in his manner, earnest in his christianity, upright in his business relations, enjoying life as he found it, he was a loving and kind husband, an indulgent parent, and a true and steadfast friend.