

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Transactions and Reports, Nebraska State
Historical Society

Nebraska State Historical Society

1885

Elder J. M. Young

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebhistrans>



Part of the [History Commons](#)

"Elder J. M. Young" (1885). *Transactions and Reports, Nebraska State Historical Society*. 62.
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebhistrans/62>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska State Historical Society at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Transactions and Reports, Nebraska State Historical Society by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

served in the lower branch of the territorial legislature, and in 1860 was elected to the council and made president at the organization of that body. He married the daughter of Col. John Ritchie, of Omaha.

In 1862 he was commissioned as major of the Second Nebraska Cavalry, and served for a period of about fifteen months. Shortly after this he ran for congress, and though twice defeated by Mr. Daily, was elected to the fortieth and forty-first and re-elected to the forty-second congress, by an overwhelming majority of nearly 5,000, the vote standing in his favor 12,375 and for his opponent 7,967.

In his congressional course Mr. Taffe was a faithful worker in the interest of the state of his adoption, energy and zeal being the predominating features of his work in the halls of congress as well as at home. His work was successful without ostentation, and thorough with all the elements of a practical nature.

In the forty-second congress he served as chairman of the house committee on territories, while, at the same time, holding important positions on two other committees.

After leaving congress he became editor of *The Republican*, and filled the chair with considerable ability and success. He was a plain, practical, and earnest writer, and, on political issues, throughout the state, in those days, was considered almost infallible. An excellent proof of this is found in the fact that in a certain presidential election he not only forecast the vote of our own state to a nicety but also that of many of the states of the union.

After his retirement from *The Republican* he returned to the practice of his profession, taking some interest in mining operations.

He was honest and honorable in all his dealings, and loyalty to friends was the ruling characteristic of his head and heart.

ELDER J. M. YOUNG.

ELDER J. M. YOUNG was really the founder of the city of Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska. He was born in Genesee county, New York, near Batavia, on the old Holland purchase, on November 25, 1806. In 1829 he married Alice Watson, at that time eighteen years of age, and who now survives him at the age of seventy-four. The following year he moved to Ohio and from Ohio he went to Page county, Iowa,

in 1859. In 1860 he came to Nebraska and settled at Nebraska City. In 1863, near the end of the year, he came to Salt Creek and selected as a site for a town, and what he predicted would be the capital of Nebraska, the present site of Lincoln.

The following persons located here at the same time: Thomas Hudson, Edwin Warns, Dr. McKesson, T. S. Schamp, Uncle Jonathan Ball, Luke Lavender, Jacob Dawson, and John Giles. It was the original intention to make the settlement a church colony, but the idea was never realized as projected.

On eighty acres owned by him Elder Young laid out the town of Lancaster, which was made the county seat. He gave the lots in the city away, half to the county and school district and half to Lancaster seminary, a school which he hoped to see established here for the promulgation of his faith. He built from the proceeds of the sale of some lots a building which was called the seminary, and which was occupied by the district school and church. It was burned in 1867 and was never rebuilt.

A church was organized here, and Mr. Schamp was its first pastor. Elder Young was then president of the Iowa and Nebraska conference. The next year after the capital was located the stone church was built. Elder Young's dream was to build up a strong church in the capital city. He worked assiduously for this object, and put into the work some seven or eight thousand dollars of his private means. When the church went down, and he saw that his labor in so far had been in vain—that his dream could not be realized—he was almost broken-hearted, and this was the chief cause of his departure from Lincoln, which took place in 1882, when he went to London, Nemaha county, the scene of his closing days, in the year 1884.

Elder Young began his labors as a minister soon after he moved to Ohio in 1829. He was president of the Ohio annual conference for several years, and was president of the Nebraska and Iowa conference for about twenty years. He was a man of rare vigor and zeal for the cause to which he gave his life.

Besides his wife the deceased leaves four sons to mourn his loss: John M. Young, of Lincoln; James O. Young, of London, Nemaha county; Levi Young, of this county, near Raymond, and Geo. W. Young, of Taos City, New Mexico.

The Elder had all the preparations for the funeral made under his

directions before his death. In Wyuka cemetery, where his remains were laid, he had already erected a monument over the graves of his brother and his brother's wife, and bearing also the names of himself and his wife. He had a portion of his funeral clothes made under his directions. His request was that Elder Hudson should preach his funeral sermon, and that R. D. Silver, for whom he entertained a strong friendship, should be one of the pall bearers.

CHARLES POWELL.

CHARLES POWELL died at Omaha, ———, 1884. He was born in Geneva, N. Y., on May 13, 1811, and was therefore at the time of his demise 73 years of age. He was married in 1843 to Miss Catherine M. Bacon, a lady who was a native also of New York, the wedding taking place at Jonesville, Mich. Mr. Powell came to Nebraska in 1858, and located at De Soto, to which point he transported an extensive outfit of machinery with which he started a mill, one of the first and most valuable to settlers in this territory. Two years later Mr. Powell brought out his family, and after seven years residence at De Soto they removed to this city, where in the social, religious, and commercial life of the community they have been valued factors.

Four years ago Mr. Powell, whose health had always been somewhat delicate, retired from business life, and was elected by the people of his ward to the office of justice of the peace, which he has filled honorably and well. One of the oldest vestrymen of Trinity, having been chosen to the vestry in the days when the people worshiped in the church at Ninth and Farnam streets, Mr. Powell has also been a member of the board of education, one of the Old Settlers' Association, and also a patriarch in the order of Odd Fellows.

During the war he served with the Fifth Nebraska Cavalry. Each and every trust bestowed upon him he discharged with fidelity. Throughout his long and well rounded life he was eminently a good citizen, a modest man, and a true friend. He leaves a wife and two children, Mr. Archie C. Powell and Eloise B. Nichols, to whom the tenderest sympathies of the community go out.

His son, Mr. A. C. Powell, is paymaster of the Kansas and Colorado lines of the Union Pacific Railway.