

1885

S. S. Caldwell

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebhisttrans>



Part of the [History Commons](#)

"S. S. Caldwell" (1885). *Transactions and Reports, Nebraska State Historical Society*. 48.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebhisttrans/48>

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.

first exclusively wholesale grocery house, the firm being Lacey & McCormick. They did a large and lucrative business, and shortly afterward the partnership was extended, two of Mr. McCormick's brothers taking equal interests in the concern, and the style being changed to John McCormick & Co. Mr. McCormick was married twice, his first wife being a Miss Miller, by whom he had a daughter, Miss Woodie McCormick. The second wife was Miss Elizabeth Miser, a sister of Mrs. J. H. Lacey, two sons, Charles and John, being the fruit of the union.

In the business and social circles of Omaha the deceased was always a prominent character. When, in 1859, the present town site of Omaha was bought from the general government, John McCormick was selected as the man to hold it in trust, and the entire property was deeded to him. At the proper time he transferred the title to D. D. Belden, then mayor, and from this source all our real estate titles start.

Mr. McCormick was also quite prominent in the political affairs of the early days. He represented this district in the senate during the close of the territorial time, and was a member of the first city councils. He was largely of a speculative turn of mind, and took heavy ventures in government contracts for supplies and transportation, and also in city real estate, all of which resulted profitably. Omaha's first grain elevator, which stood near the spot now occupied by the B. & M. freight depot, was built by John McCormick. At the time of his death he was an active partner in the elevator company at the transfer, and the owner of valuable real estate on Farnam and other streets in the heart of the city, besides several tracts of land outside the city limits.

S. S. CALDWELL.

SMITH SAMUEL CALDWELL died at Omaha,, 1884. He was the son of a farmer in Marion, Wayne county, New York, where he was born in 1834. He was a graduate of Union College, and came to Omaha in 1859. He was a lawyer by profession, and undertook its practice here, but soon afterwards engaged in the banking business, which he successfully pursued with a high reputation as a financier for nearly a quarter of a century. He was at first in the

firm of Barrons, Millard & Co.; then in the firm of Millard, Caldwell & Co.; then in that of Caldwell, Hamilton & Co.; and latterly in the U. S. National Bank, of which he was vice-president and the largest stockholder when he died.

Mr. Caldwell was a broad-headed man, self-reliant and resolute, of high public spirit, and capable of large undertakings. The monuments of his enterprises will stand long after all that was mortal of him shall have returned to its kindred dust. The Caldwell block fitly bears his name, because, at the time it was built, without his energetic efforts it would not have been built at all. The Omaha & Southwestern railway, of which he was president, was, to a great extent, his own creation in a financial point of view. It was the parent of railways connecting Omaha with the south-western interior of the state. Mr. Caldwell was one of the leading spirits and chief organizer of the Grand Central hotel enterprise, which was regarded as a great undertaking at the time it was erected. For many years he wielded a powerful influence upon Omaha affairs, and with his positive views and energy of purpose, whatever he undertook he was pretty certain to accomplish. He was a man of fine mind, strong character, commanding personal dignity, and refined and cultivated tastes. Under a somewhat forbidding, and somewhat curt manner, he carried a warm and gentle heart, whose sympathies were never in such full play as when he was in his own home surrounded by those whom he so dearly loved.

Mr. Caldwell was married to Miss Henrietta M. Bush, of Tioga, Pennsylvania, in April, 1863, a lady who, as woman, wife, and mother, has occupied the highest position in our Omaha social life for twenty years.

HON. JOHN TAFFE.

HON. JOHN TAFFE died at North Platte, Nebraska, March 14, 1884, aged 57 years. He was a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was born Jan. 30, 1827. He received an academic education, and after a diligent study of the law was admitted to the bar in the city of his birth.

In the year 1856 he moved to this state and located in Dacotah county, where he resided until his election to congress. In 1858-9 he