

THE DAILY TIMES, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1922.

Geo. E. Hubbell, Oldest Lawyer, Answers Call At the Age of 94 Years

Practiced in Davenport Many Years—Lifelong Republican

George E. Hubbell, pioneer Davenport attorney, oldest member of the Scott County bar and lifelong Republican passed away at 1:50 o'clock this afternoon at the Fejervary home, where he had made his home for a number of years. He would have been 94 years old had he lived until April 7.

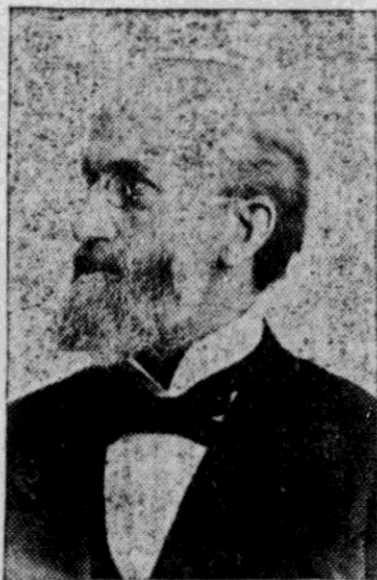
Mr Hubbell was for years a prominent lawyer in Davenport. He was born in Salisbury, Conn., April 7, 1828. His father was John L. Hubbell, a native of Connecticut, while his mother was Sophia R. Morse, a relative of Prof. Morse of telegraph fame.

He was educated in Connecticut and graduated from the Yale law school in 1851, later opening a law office in New Haven, Conn. Soon after his marriage, in 1852, he opened a law office in New York City where he remained until 1853 when ill health forced him to move west and locate in Davenport. He practiced continually in Davenport until his retirement from active life a few years ago.

In the spring of 1864 Mr Hubbell and his brother, Judge S. A. Hubbell engaged in the practice of law together. This firm was dissolved when his brother was appointed by President Johnson as territorial judge for New Mexico.

Mr Hubbell who was always a

(Continued on Page Eight)



GEORGE E. HUBBELL

MILLIONS FAIL SAVING LIFE OF ARMOUR CHILD

Little Gwendolyn Passes After Week's Illness From Septicemia

[Associated Press Leased Wire] CHICAGO, March 23.—Gwendolyn Armour, 6-year-old daughter of

G. E. HUBBELL, AGED LAWYER, ANSWERS CALL

(Continued from Page Cne)

staunch Republican never was a candidate for any political office but preferred to engage in his law practice.

Bids Republicans Farewell

Mr Hubbell's last message to the Republicans of Davenport was read at the city convention which was held last Thursday evening at the Turner hall. In his letter Mr Hubbell predicted victory for the Republican ticket at the coming city election.

"At the age of 94 years I bid you farewell," he wrote in closing his letter.

Mr Hubbell was married June 10, 1852, to Miss Mary Brewster Pease. His first wife died February, 1873. In June, 1874, he married Mary C. Worthington whose death occurred a number of years ago.

When Mr Hubbell came to Davenport the city had a population of 4,000. He often told how he had seen the city grow from this number to a city of 56,000 people.

In spite of advanced age Mr Hubbell took a keen interest in the affairs of the day. During the past few weeks, however, he realized that the end was near. For this reason he penned his farewell message to the Republican party last week.

Mr Hubbell is survived by a son C. H. Hubbell of Davenport. Arrangements for the funeral have not been completed.

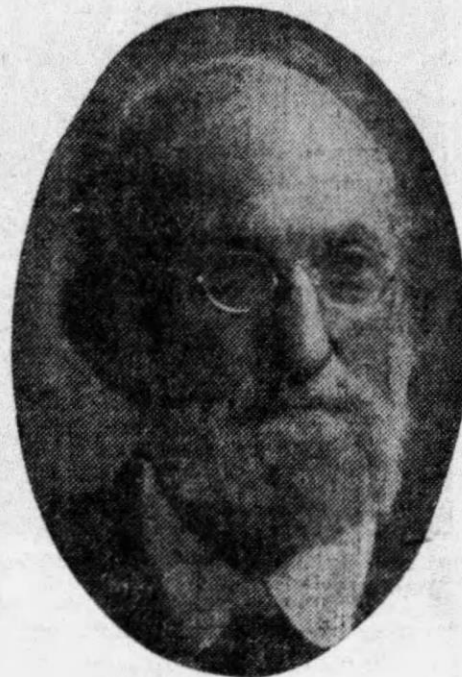
Lawyers Active in the Early Days of Davenport

Have You Heard of Ebenezer Cook, John P. Cook, Ira Cook and George E. Hubbell? In Their Day They Were the Bright Lights of Our Bar-
risters and Took an Active Part in Making of Davenport.

By E. H. STILES
Reporter Iowa Supreme Court 1867-1875.

EBENEZER, John P., William L., and Ira Cook were among the first settlers. All of them became eminent in the early history of Iowa—the first two as lawyers and statesmen, the others as public men of some note. They were the sons of Ira Cook, Sr. The father, with his daughter and her husband, William Van Tuyle, came first in 1835, the others in the following year, 1836.

I became acquainted with John P. and Ebenezer Cook on my first attendance at the April sessions of the supreme court at Davenport in 1867. Ebenezer was then one of the principal officers of the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific railroad company, and had virtually retired from the practice. They seemed to me as different in their characteristics as they were in person. Ebenezer was tall, stately, dignified and reticent; John P., of medium height, easily approachable, inviting in manner and highly entertaining in conversation. Ebenezer was the elder of the two, having been born in 1810, John in 1817. They were both natives of Oneida county, New York, though of Puritan extraction. Their parents were New Englanders who emigrated at an early day from Massachusetts to New York.



GEORGE E. HUBBELL

president, a position he held at the time of his death, at Davenport in 1871, when he was in the 62nd year of his age.

John P. Cook, from the natural brightness of his mind from his study—more of men than of books—and long experience, became one of the most accomplished lawyers of the territory and state. After remaining at the village of Davenport for some time he went to Tipton, in Cedar county, where he remained several

the exasperated Hummer, in his aerial prison. The ludicrous incident became the absorbing theme of the day. It was not only written but rhymed about in a series of four verses, originating in a group of lawyers during a recess of the court. How and by whom this was done is thus told by Judge William H. Tut-hill, in the July, 1864, number of the Annals: •

The first verse was the improvisation of the Honorable John P. Cook, the legal vocalist of the day, who, upon hearing the ludicrous story of the bell's departure, broke out in song, to the infinite merriment of the members of the bar present, and in his sonorous and mellifluous tones, sang the first six lines to the well-known popular air of "Moore's Evening Bells." Stephen Whicher, Esq., who made one of the merry company, carefully noted down the fragmentary carol, and meeting me soon afterward, earnestly solicited me to complete the song, as he termed it. His request was immediately complied with, and in a few moments the whole versified story of the bell was told in an impromptu production, of which I append a copy, verbatim et literatim, from the original manuscript now lying before me, which has never been out of my possession.

The following is the verse referred to:

Ah, Hummer's bell! Ah, Hummer's bell!

How many a tale of woe 'twould tell,

Of Hummer driving up to town
To take the brazen jewel down,
And when high up in his belfre,
They moved the ladder, yes, sir-e-e;
Thus while he towered aloft, they say,

The bell took wings and flew away.
Cook was a favorite with the judges and officers of the supreme court, and so long as he lived, it was an occasion of pleasure for them to see and converse with him during the semi-annual sessions at Davenport. He died while yet in his prime,

Ebenezer Cook became early prominent in public affairs. In 1838 he took an active part in the noted county seat contest between Davenport and Rockingham, as did also his brother, John. In the same year he was appointed clerk of the first board of county commissioners. At the first term of court after the organization of Scott county, which was made a part of the second judicial district of the territory of Wisconsin (we were then a part of Wisconsin), the presiding judge, David Irvin, appointed him clerk of the court, and the certificate of this appointment is the first entry on the court record; and in a small, but well preserved court record still among the archives of the clerk's office, can be seen the original record of the first district court held in this county, in the fair handwriting of the lamented Ebenezer Cook. His appointment was continued by Judge Joseph Williams, one of the three first judges appointed after the organization of the territory, of whose district Scott county became a part.

At the first session of the territorial legislature in 1838, he was, on the recommendation of the governor, appointed judge of probate of Scott county; and at the election of 1840 was again made probate judge, and his brother, Ira, county treasurer. In 1844 he was chosen one of the delegates to the constitutional convention of that year to draw a constitution for the state. He was the only Whig elected on the entire county ticket. His Democratic associates were Andrew Campbell and James Grant. Under the new city charter of 1851, he, with Hiram Price, was elected

county, where he remained several years, establishing for that day a fine practice, and an excellent standing. Later he returned to Davenport and entered into legal partnership with his brother, Ebenezer. His advancement was constant and steady. The reported cases in which he was concerned, are numerous. He was not only prominent at the bar, but in public affairs as well, and played an important part in shaping the laws and jurisprudence of the new commonwealth. In 1842 and 1844 he represented in the senate or council of the Fifth and Sixth Territorial Assemblies, the counties of Cedar, Jones and Linn. In the senate of the Second general assembly he represented the counties of Cedar, Linn and Benton; in the senate of the Third General Assembly the counties of Cedar, Linn, Benton and Tama; and from 1853 to 1855 he represented his district, which was then an immense one, in the congress of the United States. His political opponent in the election was a strong man, Lincoln Clark, of Dubuque, but Mr. Cook's majority was decisive. He was a Whig in politics until the dissolution of that party, when he affiliated with the Democratic party, which continued in a hopeless minority during the remainder of Mr. Cook's life.

Personally considered, it may be broadly stated that he was a delightful man, sparkling, jovial, witty, wise, highly companionable and generous to a fault. A single instance may be cited to show his readiness and fertility in some of the respects mentioned. It was in connection with "Hummer's Bell," and its abduction from the steeple in which it hung at Iowa City. Much was written and

at the age of 55, at Davenport, in 1872; and when he left the world behind him, there were few in it that could completely take his place. When his death was known appropriate memorial services were observed in the supreme court.

George E. Hubbell was a native of my own state, Connecticut, where he was born in Salisbury, in 1828. He was a graduate of the Yale law school, practiced for a short time in New Haven, then in New York City, and in 1853 located as one of the early lawyers in Davenport, where he actively practiced his profession for so many years that he became the oldest continuous practitioner of the Davenport bar. He was in continuous practice for more than 56 years. He was a sound lawyer and was employed in many cases of great importance. His brother, Sidney A. Hubbell, was a United States judge of the territory of New Mexico, whence he was driven by the capture of a portion of that country by the confederates. He came to Davenport and entered into partnership and continued in the practice with his brother, George E. Hubbell, until his reappointment to the judgeship in New Mexico, where he returned, and died in 1879. George E. Hubbell studiously applied himself, as already indicated, to his profession, and never sought political office. When he came to Davenport it contained less than 4,000 inhabitants. He was of English extraction, and belonged to hardy, long-lived New England, Puritan stock. His father, John L. Hubbell, was a native of Connecticut, and lived until he was 90. His mother was a cousin of Professor Morse, the inventor of the telegraph.

he, with Hiram Price, was elected alderman of the third ward. Upon the organization in 1853 of the Mississippi and Missouri railroad company (afterward consolidated with the C. R. I. & P. R. R. Co.), he and his brother, John, became leading members of it. In 1855 he was again alderman, and in 1858, mayor of Davenport. In the Fourth General Assembly, which convened at Iowa City on the 4th day of December, 1854, his name was presented among other candidates for election to the United States senate, and it would seem from the Senate Journal of that session, which I have before me, that he narrowly escaped being elected. James Harlan, who was eventually elected, received fewer votes on the first ballot than Mr. Cook. On the third ballot, A. C. Dodge, Harlan and Cook were the principal ones voted for. On the fifth ballot, Harlan received 45; Cook 44; scattering, 9.

He was admitted to the bar at Davenport in 1840, and soon attained an extensive practice in that part of the state. Fortuitous circumstances and natural inclination, however, eventually drew him into wider enterprises. As we have seen, he was active in the organization of the Mississippi and Missouri railroad company; he was alike active in its consolidation with that of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, of which he became a director, then secretary, then vice president and later acting

Iowa City. Much was written and said about it at the time and afterwards in the old series of the "Annals" and elsewhere. Boiled down it may be thus summarized: The Reverend Michael Hummer (the same that once went to Davenport to whip James Grant and got whipped himself, instead, as related by Theodore S. Parvin in connection with his sketch, ante) was a queer specimen for a clergyman—as warlike as he was queer. As pastor of a Presbyterian church at Iowa City, he had behaved in such manner that the congregation ousted him. He was greatly enraged and sought to retaliate by stealthily removing from the belfry the bell that had been placed there during his pastorate. For this purpose he went with an accomplice to bring a team with which to take away the bell, he, by means of a ladder which they had brought, ascended the belfry, unhung the bell and lowered it to the ground. Some citizens observing what was going on, rallied more to their support, and while Hummer's accomplice was gone for the wagon, quickly brought one of their own, removed the ladder, placed the bell in their wagon and drove away, leaving Hummer a prisoner in the belfry. He raved like a mad man as he watched the proceedings, indulged in powerful expletives, threatened destruction and threw everything within his reach at the assembled citizens, who mockingly rejoiced and went their way, leaving

EDWARDS MEN'S CLUB ADDRESSED BY PROF. R. B. WAY

Prof. R. B. Way of the faculty of Beloit college, Beloit, Wis., was a Davenport visitor Friday, and gave the address of the evening before the Men's club of Edwards Congregational church at the home of H. J. Zeuch on Temple lane.

Mr. Way took as his subject "Comedy and Tragedy in American Politics," and had some very entertaining things to relate to his audience, which was most appreciative.

The principal business of the evening was the election of officers. The result was as follows:

President—E. C. Balch.

Vice president—Frank Camp.

Secretary-treasurer—L. C. Stein.

Four new members were accepted in Messrs. Pound, Tomlinson, Crawford and Dr. Kingsbury.

There was an informal social hour after the meeting when refreshments were served, the committee assisting the host of the evening being composed of G. F. Fuchs, J. H. Tappert, H. Frank Camp and A. G. Ramsey.

The National Herb Growing association, organized by English women in the early days of the war, has grown so that the growing of herbs is now common among people with small gardens. The object is to put herb growing and drying on a proper commercial basis so that it may prove a valuable industry after the war. Prior to the war, this country was largely dependent upon Germany for herb supplies.