

# William Hull and Satterlee Clark

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By Elias A. Calkins

## William Hull

Hon. Wm. Hull died at his home in La Crosse, on the 15th of September, 1881. The *La Crosse Chronicle* says: "He was born on a plantation, near New Orleans, La., about the year 1815. His father was a gentleman of means, high social standing, and was able to give his son the advantages of a most excellent education, not only classical, but military as well. William Hull graduated at a military school, was commissioned lieutenant when quite young, and fought through the Seminole War in Florida, in 1837. On his return, he entered the law office of Judah P. Benjamin, but shortly after had to leave his native State forever, having unfortunately killed a young gentleman, whom he accused of having killed his brother in a duel, in an unfair manner. This unfortunate occurrence changed the whole career of Mr. Hull, and he never dared to return to his home again. He came to Wisconsin, then a Territory, in 1838, and having become acquainted with Jeff. Davis, during the war in Florida, he visited him at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, where Davis was stationed, under Gen. Taylor, and there entered the service of the United States. Whilst at Fort Crawford, he was sent by Davis to Fort Snelling, and on his return from the Upper Mississippi, he camped on the site where La Crosse now stands. This was in 1838.

"Having resigned his military position, he moved to, and settled in Potosi, Grant County, Wisconsin, which at that time attracted the attention of miners and smelters to its rich and remunerative lead mines. For many years he engaged in mining and in the practice of law, and was considered quite wealthy, and he wielded quite a great political influence in his county. When he first came to Wisconsin, he was a Henry Clay Whig, but having become acquainted with Governor Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin, and being befriended by him, Mr. Hull conceived such a warm friendship and attachment for the old hero, that he became the leader