

# Wisconsin Necrology, 1876-81

By Lyman C. Draper

After giving a few omissions for 1876-78, which should have appeared in vol. viii, the usual necrological sketches for the three years, 1879-81, follow.

## 1876

Hon. Orrin Guernsey died in Janesville, Sept. 26th, in his sixty-third year. Born in Lisbon, N. H., April 14th, 1814, he early engaged in mercantile pursuits; in the spring of 1843, he was elected a member of the general assembly of that State, and also served as a colonel and brigadier-general in the State militia. In the fall of 1843, he removed to Janesville; and in 1850 he went across the plains to California, returning by way of Panama. In 1856, he was associated with Josiah F. Willard, in preparing a *History of Rock County*, with the transactions of the Agricultural Society and Mechanics' Institute of that county, an octavo volume of 350 pages.

In 1861, Mr. Guernsey was chosen a member of the legislature; and in 1865, he was appointed by President Johnson, a member of the Indian commission to conclude treaties with the Sioux Indians on the Upper Missouri, serving two years in that capacity. He was twice elected to the city council, and once to the county board; for many years one of the trustees of the Blind Asylum, and fourteen years one of the directors of the Madison Insurance Company, and was long the local agent of that and other insurance companies in Janesville.

"Mr. Guernsey," says the *Janesville Gazette*, "was intimately connected with almost every enterprise for the advancement of our city and people, for a third of a century. He was a man of more than ordinary intellectual ability; radical, but liberal, in his religious and political ideas, a firm and persistent friend of our system of free schools, an efficient worker in the Rock County Agricultural Society, and an advocate of every reform calculated to elevate mankind, and make society better."

Prof. Herbert E. Copeland died at Indianapolis, Dec. 12th, in his twenty-eighth year. Born at Avon, Michigan, May 7th, 1849, he received at Ypsilanti a classical education. Removing to Wisconsin in the spring of 1868, he entered the Wisconsin State University, and when completing his sophomore year, he went to Cornell University, where he graduated with high honor. He studied botany under President Chadbourne, and natural history at Penikese under Prof. Agassiz, and became one of the most advanced students in natural history in the country. He was made principal of Ravenswood Academy, Ill., then professor of natural sciences at the Whitewater State Normal School, and subsequently accepted an appointment in the department