

Mr. Birchard died in Milwaukee in 1864. He married, in 1854, Miss Matilda Taylor, daughter of the late Tracy Taylor, an eminent lawyer of Philadelphia. One son survives, Harvey L. Birchard, who is now a resident of Milwaukee. Mrs. Birchard, a most estimable lady, now the wife of D. C. Abby, also remains a resident of the city.

HERMAN L. PAGE was born in Oneida County, N. Y., May 27, 1818. In 1844 he removed to Milwaukee, and opened a dry goods store on the present site of the establishment of Bradley & Metcalf. Careful as a business man, he soon acquired a competency. On his retirement from business, he accepted the position of Under-Sheriff of the county, in which office he particularly distinguished himself as a detective in 1851. In 1853 he became Sheriff of the county, and appointed Wm. Beck as his deputy; and, being a man of great will and nerve, was one of the most efficient officials the county ever possessed.

Mr. Page was an Odd Fellow of prominence in the order, and was indefatigable in his exertions to advance the standard of Odd Fellowship in the West. He was the first Grand Patriarch and the third Grand Master of Wisconsin, and in 1848 was a representative to the Grand Lodge of the United States. In 1850 he was elected as Deputy Grand Sire of the Grand Lodge of the United States.

Mr. Page was elected Mayor of Milwaukee in 1859, and materially advanced the interests of the city by increasing the efficiency of the police force. He died at Dresden, Germany, in October, 1873.

HON. ISAAC P. WALKER, a native of Virginia, was born in 1813. Coming West when quite young, he first settled in Illinois, but in 1841 removed to Wisconsin. Mr. Walker held several prominent political positions, and in 1848 was sent to the United States Senate with Henry Dodge. After the expiration of the short term which had fallen to him by lot, he was reelected for the full term. He retired in 1855, and settled on his farm, near Eagle, Waukesha County, where he remained a few years, and then returned to Milwaukee to resume the practice of law. He died March 29, 1872.

JAMES B. MARTIN was born in Baltimore on the 10th of August, 1814, and was educated at St. Mary's College. It was his ambition to become a merchant, and after completing his studies he entered the service of a firm of commission merchants—honest, steady-going Quakers—and laid the foundation of success in life. In 1845, at the mature age of 31, he chose Milwaukee for his home. His public spirit and enterprise added largely to the progress of the place. With capital at command, he at once engaged in real estate speculations. The large building on the southwest corner of East Water and Wisconsin streets was the first monument of his enterprise. Several elegant residences, the finest of their day, yet stand as evidences of his good taste and shrewd foresight. The iron building on the southeast corner of East Water and Wisconsin streets displaced a row of wooden buildings, and improved the center of the city. By chance he became the owner of a mill on West Water street (the Reliance mill), and the care of this property changed the nature of his business. The purchase of material gradually drew him into the wheat market. In time he became a leading operator on 'Change. In 1873 his shipments on his own account amounted to over 4,000,000 bushels, and in 1874 he shipped over 5,500,000 bushels.

On the 22d of December, 1833, he was married to Miss Eliza Yates, of Utica, N. Y. In political matters Mr. Martin held very decided views, and, though a Democrat from early life, was never a partisan, but always supported for office him whom he regarded most worthy and best fitted, regardless of party distinction or prejudice. He died from paralysis, January 18, 1878, in the 64th year of his age.

LESTER SEXTON. On the afternoon of March 15, 1869, Lester Sexton, a public-spirited and universally respected citizen for twenty-two years, was stricken with paralysis and breathed his last a few hours thereafter, in the presence of a weeping circle of relatives and friends. From an early age the deceased was a man of affairs, as appears conclusively from the following sketch of his life, which appeared in the *Sentinel* at the time of his demise: "Mr. Sexton was born in Sommers, Tolland County, Connecticut, on the 28th of April, 1807. In his early youth he removed to Hartford, in that State, where at the age of 21 years he went into the mercantile business. His business character was formed by early associations with such eminent business men as Amos R. Eno, of Hartford, Edwin D. Morgan and others of New York, who were his early business associates. In 1837 he went to New Orleans and opened a store, which he conducted successfully for ten years. Early on the opening of the Spring of 1847, when the Mississippi River was raging with the opening floods, and filled with floating ice, he took passage on the steamer "Ben Sherad" to come North to make his Spring purchases. He carried his money with him. In the night the steamer took fire and burned to the water's edge. But few were saved. He could not swim, and said that he was the last one to leave the burning wreck. He took his trunk, which had straps upon it, and by means of those straps lashed himself to the trunk, putting one strap over his neck so that his head would keep out of water, and in this manner he plunged into the running, icy waters. The stream carried him rapidly along with its current, and from twelve o'clock at night—when he plunged in—he was not rescued till nine o'clock the next morning, many miles below. He was discovered by wreckers, or people on shore, and they succeeded in rescuing him. They considered him dead. He was unconscious and limbs frozen. They stripped him of all he possessed—all his money, his watch and jewelry, and left him upon the shore. Another man, who had been rescued, happened to pass that spot, who recognized him as his friend Sexton. He obtained help, and only by the most vigorous attentions and applications, was