HISTORY
OF
HENRY COUNTY
ILLINOIS

By HENRY L. KINER

Also Biographical Sketches of Many Representative Citizens
of the County

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

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township offices and was supervisor for many years. He died on the old home-
stead in Colona township, January 2, 1886, at the age of sixty-three years and
his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, not only to his im-
mediate family, but to many friends who had learned to know and esteem him.
His widow survives at a venerable age and is one of the most highly respected
ladies of the county.

STEPHEN TYLER HUME, M.D.

In the year 1845 Stephen Tyler Hume became a resident of Geneseo and
with the exception of two brief periods continued to make his home in the
city until his death. During the interim he was for many years an active prac-
titioner of medicine and afterward a prominent factor in the banking interests
of the city, and throughout the entire time he was a progressive citizen whose
public spirit prompted his active cooperation in those movements which have
given strength and character to the community. In the years of his early resi-
dence here Geneseo was a collection of small houses, many of them built of
logs, and the surrounding country was largely undeveloped. He lived to witness
its transformation into one of the thickly settled districts of the state, rich in its
natural resources and in its acquired business activity and interests.

Dr. Hume was born in Riga, Monroe county, New York, May 3, 1818, and
passed away on the 21st of March, 1908, lacking but forty-six days of reaching
the ninetieth anniversary of his birth. The Hume family traces its ancestry
back in this country to Nicholas Hume, of Boston, who was born in 1761, while
the ancestry goes back to 1010, when the family flourished in Scotland. Moses
Hume, the father of Dr. Hume, was a native of Massachusetts and was the son
of Stephen Hume, who was also born in the old Bay state, when it was still
numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain. Serving as a soldier
of the Revolutionary war, he thus aided in achieving American independence
and his son, Moses Hume, who served in the war of 1812, wedded Sarah Stew-
art, who was also a native of Massachusetts and traced her lineage back to the
royalty of Scotland. To provide for his family Moses Hume followed carpen-
tering and contracting. At the age of twenty-two years he removed to New
York and made his home at Riga until 1854, when he became a resident of
Hudson, Michigan, where he died in 1864 at the age of seventy-seven years.
His wife survived him until 1868 and was eighty-four years of age at the time
of her demise. Their family numbered eight children, all of whom reached
adult age and one son, George, the youngest, died while serving in the Civil
war. The others were: Alonzo S., Mrs. Sarah Moore, Henry L., Roderick R.,
Stephen T., Cutler E. and Mrs. Anna L. Dresser.

Dr. Hume was the last survivor among the family of six brothers and two
sisters. He was born and reared on a farm, the outdoor life developing a rugged
and vigorous manhood. He supplemented his common-school education by an
academic course preparatory to taking up the study of medicine and he made
his way through medical college largely by working on the farm in the sum-
mer and teaching district school in the winter seasons, thereby acquiring the
money sufficient to meet the expenses of a college course. At length he was
graduated from Berkshire Medical College with the class of 1844 and in the
following year he came to the middle west, his objective point being Janesville,
Wisconsin. However, while en route he stopped to visit relatives in Geneseo,
Illinois, and finding but one physician here, Dr. Pomeroy, he decided to remain
and was soon accorded a large and growing patronage. As the country was
then but sparsely settled his professional duties forced him to take long rides
all over this and adjacent counties as he traveled over trackless prairies to the
homes of the early settlers. No night was ever too dark, no road too long or
heat or cold too intense to prevent him from responding to the call of one who
needed his medical aid, and he is yet remembered as the loved family physician
in many a frontier household.

On the 18th of March, 1846, Dr. Hume was united in marriage to Miss
Permelia T. Stewart, the wedding being celebrated in the old log hotel which
was conducted by her father, R. R. Stewart, where the Swedish Lutheran church
now stands. She was born in Brockport, New York, June 7, 1822. Her parents
were well known and prominent residents of that place and in 1836 assisted in
the organization of the Congregational church at Bergen, New York. On the
following day, in company with four other families, they set out for Illinois,
making the trip in prairie schooners. Two months were required to complete
the journey but at length Elisha and Reuben Cone, Cromwell K. Bartlett, Cul-
ver Bartlett and R. R. Stewart, with their respective families, reached Princeton,
Illinois, where they remained until a house could be erected at Geneseo. The
first house was built where the Collegiate Institute now stands and the first
hotel was built by R. R. Stewart. It was in that primitive hostelry that Mrs.
Hume spent her girlhood days and she and her sisters, Mrs. Susanna Allan and
Mrs. Narcissa Wells, were the first school teachers of Henry county. Dr. and
Mrs. Hume traveled life's journey happily together for more than fifty-one
years and were then separated by the death of the wife on the 4th of Decem-
ber, 1897. They were the parents of six children, but all died in infancy with
the exception of Mrs. Ella Taylor, who now lives in the old home in Geneseo,
and with her daughter, Mrs. J. H. White and her family, are the only descend-
ants of Dr. Hume.

With the exception of six months spent in Sharon and nine years in the
'50s in Moline, Dr. Hume remained continuously in Geneseo from 1845 until
his demise. The earlier years of his residence here were devoted to the prac-
tice of medicine, in which he was very successful, keeping in touch with the
advance of the profession. Defective eyesight, however, caused him to retire
from the profession nearly thirty years ago and from that time until his death
he was more or less closely identified with the management of the First Na-
tional Bank. He was the last survivor of its original stockholders and directors
as organized in 1864, and he succeeded James McBroom as president at the lat-
ter's death, serving in that position from 1895 until he, too, passed away. His
memory was keen and retentive, and, always active in mind and body, he re-
tained a deep interest in everything about him to the end of his days. Unlike
many old people, he did not live largely in the past but was interested in all
that indicated the progress of the times. In his demise Geneseo sustained the loss of a great and good citizen, for he was a man of character and genuine worth. He was known as the "dignified and venerable man" and therefore was honored and loved for his many good qualities of head and heart. His long residence here and his professional and business service made him most widely known and his acquaintance with and knowledge of the old settlers and of events which shaped the history of the county was perhaps greater than that of any other man. Mrs. Hume's health was never good after an accident which she sustained, causing an injury to her spine. This was occasioned by the overturning of a wagon while on a trip to Galesburg many years ago. She was made an invalid and for many years suffered greatly but through it all was patient, gentle and sweet tempered, bearing her sufferings with Christian fortitude until called to the home beyond, December 4, 1897, when seventy-five years of age. Thus have gone from the community two of Geneseo's most esteemed and highly respected citizens, active in the interests of the community from the time of the establishment of the colony that founded the city. Their lives were at all times an exemplification of Christian belief and faith and constituted an example well worthy of emulation. They were filled with many good deeds of kindness and acts of charity—those little daily ministrations which mean so much to the recipient and awaken unaltering love and gratitude.

JAMES ALBERT BRADLEY.

Among the young men who are leaving their impress upon the business development and material progress of Geneseo is numbered James Albert Bradley, the assistant cashier of the Farmers National Bank. He was born in this city September 16, 1871, and is a son of Michael and Lila J. (Cassidy) Bradley, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Indiana. The paternal grandfather spent his entire life in the Emerald isle, but his widow afterward came to America and was residing in Pennsylvania at the time of her demise. Michael Bradley accompanied his mother to the new world during his early boyhood, and for a few years they remained at Blairsville, Pennsylvania, the son thus spending his youthful days in a region where the development of the coal fields constituted the most important industry. In 1859 he came to Illinois and took charge of the coal mines at Minersville where he remained until his removal to Geneseo. At that time he turned his attention to the grocery business, opening a store which he conducted continuously until April, 1908, when he retired to private life. In 1896 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife. She was a faithful member of the Catholic church, and Mr. Bradley is also connected with the same religious organization. In their family were six children, all sons, but only three are now living: Francis M., James A. and Virgil C.

James A. Bradley has spent his entire life in Geneseo, his youth being passed in the usual manner of village lads, who divide their time between the duties of the schoolroom and the pleasures of the playground. After mastering the branches of learning taught in the public schools here he had the benefit of instruction in