

PONTIAC BILL POSTER

Death of M. E. N. Howell.

Feb 29

1888

Myron E. N. Howell, was born at East Palmyra, Wayne county, New York, in October, 1832. He was the fourth of ten children, of Jacob and Emily Howell. In 1840 he removed with his parents to Villanovia, Chautauqua county, N. Y., and in 1850 to Pontiac, Mich., which he ever after claimed as his home. He was educated in the common schools of New York, at Fredonia Academy, N. Y., at Rochester Academy, Mich., and in the University of Michigan, graduating in June, 1858. Soon after he purchased the Pontiac Gazette of Judge Z. B. Knight; for a time Bird H. Hosner, nephew of Hon. Rufus Hosner, was associated with him in the publication. He soon doubled the circulation of the Gazette, and was a successful editor and publisher. In May, 1861, and upon his appointment as a clerk in the General Land Office, Washington, D. C., his brother, Chas. B. Howell, became associated with him in the editing and publishing of the Gazette. This he continued till the spring of 1863, when W. I. Beardsley and C. B. Turner purchased the paper.

He taught school in the winter of 1849-50, in Chautauqua county, N. Y. After coming to Michigan he taught at Troy Corners, Orion, Pontiac township, and for a time in the Pontiac Union school. He was eminently successful as a teacher. He taught two successful winters in his father's school district, a mile south east of Pontiac city, and several of his brothers and sisters were among the scholars.

Naturally, jealousies sprang up between scholars, where the teacher's own family is so largely represented in the school, but he managed with wonderful tact, and afterwards taught in the same district during a period about thirteen years ago, when for a year or two he was not in the General Land Office.

Soon after his appointment at Washington, he was promoted to a \$1,600 clerkship, and not long after that, became assistant chief clerk and then chief clerk. He was an invaluable official, and while he required his subordinates to perform their duties, his kindness of heart, made every one his friend. He wrote a bold, legible hand, and kept records looking in a neat and orderly shape. Judge J. M. Edmunds used to say he was worth half a dozen ordinary clerks; he worked rapidly, dispatching a large amount of business daily.

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