

## JAMES MADISON PATTERSON.

His Ancestors and Family Lineage; Early Life and Settlement in Cass County.

**BUSINESS SUCCESS;  
OFFICIAL PROMINENCE.**

**Eminent as a Citizen; Loved as a  
Husband—Father—Friend.**

**Last Obsequies—Burial in Oak Hill  
Cemetery.**

(The following biographical sketch of Hon. James M. Patterson was written by his intimate friend, Judge Basil S. Ramsey, between whom, for nearly thirty-nine years there has existed an uninterrupted friendship, severed only by the hand of death. The sketch speaks truthfully, loving words for his dead friend.)

On Thursday, March 26, 1903, at 6 o'clock a. m., of Bright's disease, at his home in Plattsmouth, Cass county, Nebraska, Hon. James Madison Patterson, departed this life, aged sixty-six years, five months and twenty-eight days.

It was generally known that Mr. Patterson's health had been failing for the last two years, and for months, it had been seriously doubted if he ever could recover from that disease which so generally proves fatal, and from which so few, if any, ever fully recover. But during the two weeks immediately preceding his death, his immediate family and his many friends were encouraged and most highly gratified on learning that he was gradually improving and that he anticipated a visit down town to his bank in a day or two. The day before the evening immediately preceding his demise, he expressed himself as feeling better than for weeks previous. In fact, during the evening, a number of intimate friends called to visit him and whom he entertained with his characteristic sociability and hospitality and anticipated a visit down town the next day. His convalescence had been so well assured, that when the telephone conveyed messages the next morning of his death at six o'clock, the people throughout the city and county were startled shocked at the unexpected—unwelcome, sorrowful news.

The long, useful, exemplary and upright life of James M. Patterson; his long residence in Cass county, Nebraska; his prominence in business, social and political circles, justify and demand more than an ordinary sketch of his family history and life work, the latter, if studied, imitated and emulated by young manhood, just commencing life, would result in great benefits to those who aspire to prominence, usefulness and success.

### ANCESTRY AND LINEAGE.

James Madison Patterson was born in Cross Creek Township, Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 28, 1836, of Scotch-Irish parentage. His ancestry and name are closely interwoven in the annals of the Keystone State and especially in that of Western Pennsylvania, from an early date in its colonial history. His father, James Patterson, was born in the same township, April 24, 1758, and his grandfather, Hon. Thomas Patterson, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1764. The great-grandfather, William Patterson, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1733, and the great-great-grandfather, James Patterson, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1708, of Scotch-Irish parentage. When twenty years old—1728, he came to America and settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and subsequently married there. He was a farmer and followed that occupation during his life. His family consisted of ten children from whom have descended many men, prominent in statecraft, in law and finance. Thus have we traced, briefly, the lineage and nationality of our departed friend for nearly two centuries back and the location of the family upon American soil where the descendants of the first immigrant from Ireland have borne no inconspicuous part in the upbuilding of a great nation.

The great-grandfather, William Patterson, grew to manhood in his native county, where he resided until about the year 1779, when he, accompanied by his family, crossed the Alleghany mountains with pack horses and settled on a tract of heavily timbered land in the forest and wilds of Washington county, Pennsylvania. Here with sturdy toil and persevering industry he transformed his new forest and wilderness home into one of comfort, beauty and productiveness and upon

which, in 1794, he erected a substantial stone dwelling house which still stands, a monument to the energy and industry of pioneer life, more than a century ago. This property is still owned and carefully preserved by descendants of William Patterson, who now has the historical distinction of having traveled to Philadelphia horseback to procure his land patent, which bore the signature of that statesman, patriot and philosopher, Benjamin Franklin.

Hon. Thomas Patterson, grandfather of our departed friend, grew to young manhood in his native county (Lancaster) and at the age of fifteen accompanied his parents to their new home in the wilderness of Washington county. Here, after growing into sturdy manhood, he became deeply interested in the necessary means of aiding in the development of forest and wilderness into improved productive farms and supplying the necessities of pioneer life. For such purposes, on a stream of water called Cross Creek, in Washington county, he erected saw and flouring mills, and in honor of its founder, this place was named and is still known as Patterson's Mills.

In politics, Thomas Patterson ranked among the leading democrats of the day in his native state.

He served four terms in congress and won a high and most honorable record as a statesman. He held a commission in the Pennsylvania State Militia and was known as General Patterson.

General Patterson was the father of twelve children, three of whom died in infancy, and seven sons and two daughters grew to maturity. The wife and mother died January 8th, 1837, and General Patterson died at Patterson's Mills in November 1841.

James Patterson, father of our subject, passed the early years of his life in the home of his birth, and during early manhood was engaged in the milling business. Later he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits at Patterson's Mills, in which he did an extensive and successful business and accumulated a handsome competence. He was postmaster at Patterson's Mills for many years. He was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Walker, who was born in Cross Creek township, February 22, 1802. Her father, Alexander Walker, maternal grandfather of our departed friend, was born in Bedford county Pennsylvania, and there began life as a farmer. He subsequently moved to Washington county, where he became the owner of a large tract of land and was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death. To the father and mother of our deceased friend, eleven children were born, nine of whom grew to manhood and womanhood: Elizabeth, Mary A., Thomas M., Alexander W., Jane, Ambrose, James M., (our subject) David F. and Emily A. Of this family but two are now living—David F. residing at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Emily A., the wife of Samuel Latta, residing near Murray, Cass county, Nebraska. The father of our deceased friend, departed this life, August 17, 1801, and the mother at Patterson's Mills, December 9, 1886, having rounded out the venerable age of eighty-four years.

In chronological order, we now come to sketch briefly, the life of a noble manhood, a prominent, leading, useful citizen, a loving husband, an affectionate and indulgent father—grandfather and a true, steadfast and faithful friend. To a prominent and honorable ancestry, posterity may always justifiably turn with pardonable pride, but with our departed friend, it was our knowledge, respect and love for his own personality, his own intrinsic worth that caused the unbidden tear to fall as we carried him to the tomb.

### EARLY HISTORY.

James M. Patterson received his early education in the public schools of his native county, and when quite young commenced clerking in his father's store at Patterson's Mills. It was in this employment that he laid the foundation for a methodical, practical and conservative business career in which, during a long life, he was so eminently successful. In company with his brother, Thomas M., the two succeeded to their father's mercantile business in which they were very successful. In 1860, Mr. Patterson sold out his interest in the store, and in March, 1861, came to Nebraska, then a territory, and located at Rock Bluffs, Cass county. In company with his brother Ambrose he engaged in mercantile pursuits, in which the two brothers were very successful. At that time Rock Bluffs was a flourishing town and was a strong competitor of Plattsmouth for trade and was also a rival for the county seat. At the end of three years the brothers sold

out their business and James M. returned to Pennsylvania where he purchased one thousand head of sheep, shipped them by rail as far west as Ottumwa, Iowa, and from there drove them overland to Cass county, Neb., where they were put upon the prairie to graze. This is believed to be the first experiment in an effort to establish woolgrowing in Nebraska as an industry. After experimenting for three years he sold out and again engaged in mercantile pursuits at Rock Bluffs, forming a partnership with his cousin, James A. Walker, now living at Murray, Cass county, Neb. In 1873 the firm disposed of their business and dissolved partnership.

### POLITICAL CAREER.

In 1874 Mr. Patterson removed with his family to Plattsmouth, where he has since continuously resided. His great business ability, his deep interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the people, his very marked popularity with all classes of people and the implicit confidence which the general public placed in his capability and honesty soon demanded that he accept public office.

The writer, most intimately acquainted with deceased for a period of nearly thirty-nine years—digresses long enough to say that, unlike a large ma-

most notable and for the last thirty-two years has been one of the most famous sessions of the Nebraska legislature in the history of the State. In the record of its proceedings is found the only instance where the Chief Executive was impeached and removed from office. On Wednesday, March 1, 1871, a committee from the House solemnly marched into the Senate Chamber, and there, through its chairman, announced that the House of Representatives impeached Governor David Butler of misdemeanors in office. The Senate was organized into a High Court of Impeachment. A long and bitter trial followed, lasting until June 1st, 1871, when the final vote was taken, resulting in a judgment of conviction and removal of Governor Butler from office, the judgment not extending to disqualification to hold office.

Mr. Patterson in politics was a Democrat and always a trusted leader of that party. Among pioneer leaders of the party he was the associate of Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Dr. George L. Miller, Judge James M. Woodworth, Governor James E. Boyd, Judge Wakely and many others of whom but few remain. While in a party sense he was a firm believer in and staunch supporter of the tenets of his political



HON. JAMES MADISON PATTERSON.

majority of those who attain to official position and political prominence, Mr. Patterson was, in no sense, in the common acceptance of the phrase, "an office seeker." With him in every instance it was the office seeking a worthy, competent and honest man—a man who commanded the confidence of the people alone by his sterling worth and unimpeachable integrity, and this too regardless of political considerations or party ties. While a resident of Rock Bluffs he was almost continuously a member of the school board and for a long time postmaster at that place. He was always a strong advocate of, and devoted friend to the advancement of the public schools, and of higher education, and while a member of the school board did much to make the public school of Rock Bluffs, at that time, one of the best in the county. In 1861, Mr. Patterson was a member of the territorial legislature, having been elected on a Union ticket with Jonathan N. Wise, one of his running mates. This was on the eve of the great struggle between the North and South and the legislature did not convene for that reason, and the money appropriated by the general government to pay the members of this legislature, was donated for the benefit of the Union soldier. In 1870, there arose a bitter factional breach in the Republican party in Nebraska. One faction was led by Governor David Butler and United States Senator John M. Thayer. The other faction was led by United States Senator Thomas W. Tipton. The re-election of Governor Butler and the re-election of Senator Thayer were the issues before the people. A strong and prominent element in the Republican party of Cass county opposed the re-election of these gentlemen. This element and the Democrats of Cass county united on an independent ticket, and a mass convention held on the open prairie on the old Mount Pleasant town site, near Nebawka, placed this independent ticket before the people. For State Senator, Hon. Lawson Sheldon; members of the House: Hon. James M. Patterson, John Rouse, Rev. Joseph K. Cannon and D. L. Clapp. This ticket was successful with the exception of Mr. Clapp, who was defeated by Hon. Frank M. Wolcott, of Weeping Water. During this session Mr. Patterson served as a member of the Committee on Manufactures and Commerce, and of the Committee on Roads and Bridges. This was a

faith, yet he was always considerate and tolerant of the political opinions of those who did not agree with him. This enviable characteristic together with his strong personality always attracted to his support for political preferment many who affiliated with other political parties. His candidacy for public favor did not end with membership of the legislature in 1871. Soon after his removal to Plattsmouth he was elected city treasurer, which office he held for five consecutive years, having been first elected in the spring of 1877. In the same year he was elected county treasurer on the Democratic ticket, receiving a majority of 426, and overcoming a Republican majority of over 700 in the county. In 1879 he was re-elected county treasurer and thus had the unusual distinction of holding for four years two offices involving in their administration the collection, care and disbursement of the money paid by the taxpayer.

In 1882, Mr. Patterson was elected state senator and served with distinction during the legislative session of 1883. He was chairman of the senate committee on state prison and member of the committee on banks and currency, ranking second on this committee. He was also member of the committee on military affairs. During his service in the state senate, it is a singular coincidence that he met as his peer and associate in the senate, David Butler, whom he had helped to impeach and remove from office, so far as a member of the house could do, twelve years before. Governor Butler had been elected state senator from Pawnee county and, notwithstanding the relations which existed twelve years before, senators Patterson and Butler met as equals and peers upon the senate floor.

In 1884, he was a candidate on the democratic ticket for presidential elector, the ticket being better known as the Cleveland and Hendrick's ticket. In 1888 he was the choice of his party for state treasurer, and although defeated, ran far ahead of his ticket, and more especially where well known.

Mr. Patterson's last experience as an officeholder occurred in 1891. It was the one instance in his official life when his election did not result from a popular vote of the people, but by the legally constituted authorities who alone had the power and whose duty it was to fill a certain vacancy. Sereno W. Lutton, who for years had held the office of county commissioner, died

## To Mothers!

You know, perhaps, by this time, that a growing boy, 12 to 13 years old, is very hard to fit. The "Awkward" style clothes tell you this can't be helped.

But a great part of the awkwardness isn't due to the boy at all, but to the clothes he wears. Makers sort of took it for granted that a growing boy couldn't be fitted well and didn't try.

For some time we have been giving the matter very



close attention, and if you want to see how yours boy looks in clothes that fit, bring him any day and let us put a new spring suit on him.

Double and single breasted, two-piece and three-piece.

New styles are hand-some.

**BRING THE BOY IN!**

Leading Clothier....

**-MORGAN-**

Leading Clothier....

while chairman of the board on December 5, 1894. County Judge B. S. Ramsey, county treasurer Louis Eickhoff and county clerk Frank Dickson were the three officials whose duty it was to fill this vacancy. On December 7, 1894, these officials met in the discharge of their duty. Each had a favorite candidate. Ramsey selected James M. Patterson; Eickhoff selected Stephen A. Davis and Dickson selected Am B. Todd. No partisan ever contended in a more friendly way and with more zeal for his favorite candidate than did these three men. One hundred and twenty-eight ballots were taken and the vote stood the same as on the first ballot—one vote for each. On December 8, 1894, on the one hundred and thirtieth ballot James M. Patterson was chosen, and immediately became chairman of the board.

**SUCCESSFUL BANKER.**  
After the organization of the Bank of Cass County in 1890, Mr. Patterson became largely interested as a stockholder. He became cashier and director December 6, 1891, and held both positions until January 19, 1901, when by reason of failing health, he was compelled to give up the arduous duties of cashier. At this election of bank officers he was chosen vice-president and also director, the former he held at the time of his death and the latter since 1891. As cashier, he diligently devoted his well trained business ability to promoting the best interests of the bank, and being ably and efficiently aided by its former president, Calvin H. Parquette, and later by his son, Charles C. Parmelee, successor as president to his father, succeeded in establishing a reputation for the bank for stability, safety and usefulness second to none in the state.

The great success and continued prosperity of the Bank of Cass County, as the writer well knows, was the pride of Mr. Patterson's many business ventures during his long and busy life. To him it was not alone an aggregation of capital for mere gain but more—a school in which his sons and others, learned practical financing for the benefit of aggregate capital and for the benefit of the patrons—the public at large.

Mr. Patterson was also largely interested in other banking institutions, including the now flourishing State Bank of Arapahoe, Nebraska, in which he owned a controlling interest; also in the Bank of Holbrook, in Furnas county.

### MARRIAGE.

On August 17, 1858, Mr. Patterson was united in marriage to Miss Ellen H. Campbell, who was born October 31, 1838, in Cross Creek township, Washington county, Pennsylvania. Only a public highway separated the homes in which the children were born—who afterward became husband and wife—the husband but little more than two years older than the wife. Beautiful, yet sorrowful, realistic picture of life. Playing together in early childhood; traveling as it were, together, as years were advancing; through boyhood, through girlhood; into manly young manhood, into beautiful young womanhood; at the sacred marriage altar. Then, together, through life, with all its hopes and successes, its sorrows and disappointments; then weary with life's burdens and cares, they lay down by the wayside, and side by side, beneath memorial stone, they quietly rest in eternal, dreamless sleep.

Mrs. Patterson was of that beautiful

type and character of womanhood which so silently attracts respect, admiration, love. The queen of her home, devoted to husband and children, she ever held their first consideration and their devoted love. With friend-neighbor; with the sick and needy, with all whom she came in contact, the same generous nature, the same sweet womanly graces and charms attracted and held respect, admiration, love and lasting friendship.

To Mr. and Mrs. Patterson ten children were born. Kate Florence, died August 30, 1860; Ellen, died April 8, 1882; Jennie Campbell (Mrs. Windham) died January 18, 1897. Seven children are now living. James, resides at Arapahoe, Furnas county, Nebraska, was twice married; to Miss Grace Anderson, who died July 4, 1898, and to Miss Euphemia Robbins.

Thomas M., married Miss Nettie Myers and resides in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Samuel, married Miss Rose McCauley, and resides in New York City. Lida W., married Thomas H. Pollock, and resides in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Edith P., married Charles H. King, and resides at Waukegan, Illinois. Charles A. and Rea E., are unmarried and reside at Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

Mrs. Patterson, wife—mother—grandmother, departed this life January 29, 1897, surviving her daughter, Mrs. Jennie C. Windham, just eleven days.

On June 12, 1879, the second child, Jennie C., was united in marriage to Hon. Robert B. Windham. She possessed all those beautiful and lovely traits of character which endeared her to everyone. For years, the idol in the paternal—maternal home, she became the ideal wife and mother in her own beautiful home, and the idol of her husband and her children. Her death, at the comparatively early age of thirty-seven, leaving a husband and family of eight children of tender years, dependent upon a mother's love for care and guidance, fell with crushing effect upon her father and mother. The death of Mrs. Patterson so soon afterward, was another most crushing blow to husband and father. The double bereavement, the deep grief gnawing at the heart were courageously borne, and resignedly and meekly he obeyed the command—"Pass Under the Rod."

The children of this most interesting and pioneer family who arrived at mature age became striking examples of the careful hometraining received in childhood. The sons, now leading business men, commanding confidence in ability and integrity, as did their father; the daughters, in beautiful home life, reflecting the charms and graces which so adorned and made attractive the home life of childhood when mother's love tenderly guarded and directed advancing womanhood.

James M. Patterson had almost reached the psalmist's allotted lifespan, three score years and ten. The world—mankind—are better that he have left, will not have been in vain, nor will his friends, and they are universal wherever he was known, fail to profit by the example of a useful, noble life, now crowned in death. His name, his fame, live not as if immortalized with crown upon soldier brow, but

live now and will live on, entwined about and snarled within heart of child—grandchild, friends and generations yet to come.

His heart to worthy poor and needy, was always touched to generous alms, but the christian act, silently hidden behind a nature too noble to wish for public praise for charitable act.

Although not a member of any church, yet the christian heart and hand were part of his being. His christianity, his religion were more than merely realistic and observance of outward form.

It was that religion, inborn within the heart, which prompts the christian act, rather than such as is imposed by church covenant and sectarian discipline. In all business affairs and transactions Mr. Patterson was the soul of honor. His whole nature revolted at a mean dishonest act or word for the purpose of securing gain. In all his official life his first consideration, his highest ambition was to perform his duties properly, faithfully and well.

But of all his noble qualities of heart and soul, none shone more resplendently and typified higher manhood, than did his love for home and family and loyalty to his friends. Financial successes; commendation for well and faithfully performed official duties; inspire pardonable pride; but in the family circle, surrounded by loved and loving ones; in association with his many friends in genial fellowship and faithfulness to friendships, seldom, if ever broken, more clearly and truthfully reflect the noble manhood of James M. Patterson.

### LAST SAD RITES.

On Sunday, March 29, 1903, at two o'clock in the afternoon, funeral services were held in the Presbyterian church at Plattsmouth, where the deceased had been for many years a regular attendant. An immense concourse of people from city and country had assembled to pay their last tribute of respect and love to the honored dead.

The funeral services were under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, of which the deceased had long been a member. The order of Elks, of which deceased was a member and the first one of the order in Plattsmouth to be called, also participated in the services; also the P. E. O. society of which Mr. Patterson had been a charter member. Rev. Dr. Baird of the Presbyterian church, assisted by Rector H. B. Burgess of St. Luke's Episcopal church, officiated. Rector Burgess read appropriate selections from the Bible and Dr. Baird delivered an impressive and instructive sermon on the life of deceased, dwelling in beautifully chosen words on his useful, prominent and honorable life.

The Misses Clara Street and Edna Marshall and Messrs. Ralph White and Will Butler, with Miss Louise Smith acted as the organ, most beautifully and touchingly rendered the following selections: "Rock of Ages"; "He Giveth His Beloved Sleep"; "Jesus Savior, Pilot Me"; and "Nearer My God to Thee."

The pallbearers, selected by the deceased from among his old friends, consisted of Basil S. Ramsey, Joseph W. Johnson, Johnathan N. Wise, William D. Jones, Valasco V. Leonard and Frank J. Morgan, sadly borne to Oak Hill cemetery all that was mortal of their old friend. At the grave, the five stalwart sons and the only living brother, David, received the casket from the hearse and tenderly placed the loved, cold form of father—brother in the silent, solemn tomb. In the presence of all the living children, only living brother and sister and an immense assembly of the friends of the deceased, the last scene of life was impressively closed under the beautiful burial ritual of the Masonic fraternity of which deceased had been an honored member from early manhood. Under banks of flower, wreath and rose, in a last resting place, and beautified with grassy turf, flower and memorial marble prepared by him who sleeps beneath, we bid the last—farewell.