

firm ranked very high in the legal circles of that state. He became familiar with all of the experiences and phases of western frontier life. In 1861 there was an Indian scare in Nevada, but Mr. Strother had always proved himself friendly to the Indians and they occasioned him no trouble. He found, as many another white man has done, that kind and humane treatment won their lasting friendship and gratitude and that he had nothing to fear at their hands.

While a resident of Nevada, Judge Strother was united in marriage in 1889 to Miss Julia A. Fratt, a native of Racine, Wisconsin. Judge Strother filled various positions of public honor and trust while living in Nevada, acting as justice of the peace for some time, while his fellow townsmen also called him to represent them in the state legislature. He was likewise nominated for the position of governor of the state on the republican ticket and he long exercised a wide influence in republican circles, doing not a little to shape the growth and win success for the party. He served as chairman of the state central republican committee of Nevada, was also its treasurer and was likewise made a member of the republican national committee. He had known many of the most prominent political leaders of the country and his opinions carried much weight in their councils. Fraternaly Judge Strother was a Mason and took the Knight Templar degree in the York Rite. He also was connected with the Improved Order of Red Men. He greatly enjoyed travel and made several trips aboard, gaining wide knowledge and that liberal culture which can be acquired in no other way as rapidly as in travel. The interests of his life were most varied and he was associated with events which are as thrilling as any told in tales of fiction. He had been one of the builders and promoters of the west, especially along the line of mining development. His death took place July 9, 1918, regretted by all who knew him.

MAJOR LAWS.

In the history of Howard county it is imperative that mention be made of Major Laws, who was one of the honored pioneer residents of this part of the state. He made his home for many years on section 16, Chester township, and there passed away. He was born at Feltwell, in Norfolkshire, England, June 24, 1844, and was a lad of twelve years when in 1856 he came to the United States with his parents, Mager and Maria (Hensby) Laws. Mager Laws never took up government land nor did he long survive to enjoy his new home, passing away in 1863, when fifty-two years of age. His wife, however, reached the advanced age of eighty-two years.

Major Laws of this review, having accompanied his parents to the United States, remained with them for a year in Wisconsin, after which the family home was established in Howard county, Iowa, in 1857. From that time until his death Major Laws was identified with the development and upbuilding of this section of the state. He established a home following his marriage on the 26th of June, 1871, to Miss Adalaide Nye, a daughter of Jesse A. Nye, of Chester township, who came to Howard county from Wisconsin in 1856.

Following his marriage Mr. Laws continued to engage in farming as a renter until 1879, when, having carefully saved his earnings, he was enabled to purchase what is now the Laws homestead farm, still occupied by his widow and son. Through the intervening years to the time of his death he was busily employed in the further development and improvement of the property and brought his fields under a high state of cultivation.

To Mr. and Mrs. Laws were born thirteen children, eleven of whom are yet living, as follows: Jesse J., who is employed on the Oakdale farm in Howard county; Anna J., the wife of F. W. Whitcomb, of Austin, Minnesota; Fannie M., who is the wife of M. D. Daily, of Taopi, Minnesota; Clarence, living in Absher Montana; Charlie, a resident of Hill City, Minnesota; William, who operates the home farm; Alice, the wife of H. C. Brown, of Rochester, Minnesota; and Elizabeth, Wilbur L., Harold V. and Harvey C., all at home.

The family circle was broken by the hand of death when on the 6th of April,