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Maria Purdy Peck

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of two books on economics, "Political socialism, would it fail in Success" and "Philosophic Anarchism." He had made his home at Cherokee for some years before his death.

Mrs. MARIA PURDY PECK was born in West Butler, New York, November 16, 1840; she died in Davenport, Iowa, January 2, 1913. She was the daughter of Merritt and Amanda Sears Purdy, who came of Revolutionary ancestors. She was married to Dr. Washington Freeman Peck September 18, 1865, and they removed immediately to Davenport. Mrs. Peck possessed a calm, dignified, pleasing personality that made her not only beloved but a leader in all lines of activity she attempted. Active in charitable work, she was one of the organizers and first president of St. Luke's hospital and member and organizer of the kindergarten department of the old People's Union Mission. She was well-known in club circles, being organizer and first president of the Davenport Woman's Club, one of the principal state workers in the Federation of Women's Clubs in Iowa, member of the state child labor committee, and for some time president of the local biennial board of federated clubs. Interested in library and literary work, she served for years as president of the library board and for ten years as president of the Clionian Club, one of Davenport's oldest and most exclusive literary organizations. Mrs. Peck gained national prominence in the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was one of the organizers and first regent of the Hannah Caldwell chapter of Davenport, and for a number of years regent for Iowa in the national organization. As a descendant of Stephen Hopkins she was a member of the national Mayflower Society, and was also a member of the Society of Founders and Patriots and of the Daughters of 1812. Mrs. Peck attended a number of the gatherings of the D. A. R. held in Washington and other cities and as vice president-at-large of the National Council of Women in the United States attended the quinquennial held in London in 1899 and in Montreal in 1909. She was well versed in general history and particularly in all that pertained to Iowa and the surrounding territory. She was clever in repartee and an eloquent speaker.

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