

Ira Root

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ROOT, HON. IRA, Lawyer, was born May 4, 1806, in Piermont, New Hampshire. He came West at the age of eighteen; first settled in Ohio; completed his education at Miami University; afterwards located in Newport, Kentucky; studied law; was admitted to the bar, and practiced his profession successfully up to a few months before his death. Mr. Root was married, December 25, 1834, to Sarah Ann Perry, daughter of David Perry, of Newport, Kentucky. He was a man of fine talents; was distinguished as an orator, at the bar and in the public assembly; filled high positions in his adopted State; was often elected to the Legislature; and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1849, which framed the present Constitution of Kentucky. He was always a pronounced advocate of emancipation, and a determined enemy to slavery. While a member of the Kentucky Legislature, he distinguished himself by laying the foundation for the present common-school system of the State. He was the friend of education, and devoted a great deal of his time and attention to the subject in his own community; and, from the time the Newport common-schools were organized to the last years of his life, he was some way connected with their management, as examiner, member, or presiding officer of the Board. Although greatly devoted to Kentucky, as his adopted State, he never forgot or ceased to respect New Hampshire, where he was born, and passed the first years of his life. Mr. Root was loyal to our Government during the great civil war. He died, at his residence in Newport, February 12, 1868, greatly regretted and esteemed by a large community, in which he had long been a prominent and useful member.

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