

purchased fifty acres of land. The country was new and covered with heavy forests, and the work of clearing a farm was an arduous task. Subsequently Mr. Riggs became the owner of a farm of 640 acres, or a mile square. He was a musician, and soon after getting settled in his new home was invited by the miller, on whom he was dependent for his mill work, to bring his fiddle along when he came to mill. He did so, and played vigorously while the grist was being ground. After the flour was placed in the wagon the miller said: "I have not tolled your grist, Mr. Riggs. Now, any time you want grinding done you come and fiddle for me, and I will grind for you." And for years he fiddled out his grist work. A few years after his death his widow removed to Plainfield, N. J., and died there.

Mr. Riggs was an austere, dignified man, but had also a vein of humor in his composition. On one occasion Deacon Daniel Bradley of Groton came along, after a hard day's work at clearing land, and challenged Mr. Riggs to fiddle for him as long as he would dance. The challenge was accepted, and the deacon was obliged to "tread the light fantastic toe" until the next morning. At one time his services as musician brought him 1,000 feet of clear pine lumber, which he contributed to the new meeting house, then in process of construction, and it was made into a pulpit. Mr. Riggs was an Episcopalian, but attended the Presbyterian church, then the only one in Groton. His old log house was kept as a tavern, and Mrs. Riggs was a famous landlady. Her excellent table and beds attracted all regular travelers, who made it a point to spend a night there. In 1824 Mr. Riggs built the largest dwelling house in the town, where his children and their families often met, to the number of thirty or forty. On one of his visits to Albany he purchased a cooking stove, which was the first one used in the town of Groton. He is remembered as a strictly just man, always sincerely honest in his dealings and requiring the same of others.

CHILDREN. (*Fifth Generation.*)

148. I. IRA, b. May 7, 1792; d. March 3, 1874; m. March 19, 1819, Sally Bradley, b. Dec. 17, 1794; d. June 21, 1865. m. (2d) Mrs. Adeline S. Grant. They lived at Kings Ferry, N. Y.
149. II. LEWIS, b. Nov. 14, 1793; d. April 7, 1839; m. Jan. 25, 1821, Lydia Childs, b. July 29, 1802; and resides in Waverly, Ia.