

### NOTABLE DEATHS

WILLIAM G. RAY was born at Hope, Michigan, February 19, 1857, and died in Grinnell, Iowa, January 30, 1936. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery, Grinnell. His parents were Orin L. and Harriet Shaw Ray. Owing to his mother's death he lived at the home of his maternal grandparents at Madrid, St. Lawrence County, New York, from the time he was three years old until he was seventeen, when he came to friends in Grinnell. He attended the Grinnell Academy and matriculated in Iowa College (later Grinnell College), from which he was graduated in 1882, teaching country school occasionally in the meantime. From 1882 to 1887 he was principal of Guthrie County High School at Panora, and from 1887 to 1889 was superintendent of Grinnell public schools. During these years he did much teaching in various teachers' institutes in his section of the state. On retiring as superintendent of Grinnell schools, he was made secretary of the Grinnell School Board which he held until failing health overtook him. In 1889 he became associated as junior partner with Dr. S. A. Cravath in the publication of the *Grinnell Herald*. This work he continued until the time of his death, having as partners during that forty-six years, besides Dr. Cravath, Ronald McDonald, G. W. Cowden, Austin P. Haines, and in recent years, A. L. Frisbie. In 1895 he was elected representative and served in the Twenty-sixth, the Twenty-sixth Extra (Code Revision), and the Twenty-seventh general assemblies. He was chairman of the Normal Schools Committee in the Twenty-sixth, and of the Private Corporations Committee in the Twenty-seventh. He was chairman of the Republican County Central Committee of his county for several years. He served as postmaster at Grinnell from January 18, 1907, until January 31, 1911. He served Grinnell as mayor from 1925 to 1931. During those years he took much interest in the Iowa League of Municipalities, and served that organization one year as its president. In 1921 he with A. L. Frisbie and David Sutherland bought the Brooklyn Chronicle, which at the time of his death was owned by Ray & Frisbie. In 1923 the same parties bought the Montezuma Republican, which is now owned and edited by Mr. Sutherland. Mr. Ray served as president of the Iowa Press Association for the year 1929-30. In 1933 the association gave him the further honor of designating him as one of the master editors of the state. He was made a trustee of Grinnell College in 1926, was an active member of the Masonic and the Knights of Pythias orders and of the Congregational church. He gave unstintingly of his talents and strength to the welfare of the people of his town, county and state.

SIDNEY A. FOSTER was born on a farm near Friendship, Alleghany County, New York, May 17, 1849, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, February 1, 1936. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines. When he was ten years old his mother died and he supported himself by labor, meantime attending common school. In 1865 he removed to Adams County, Wisconsin, and in 1866 began an apprenticeship as a printer

in the office of the *Adams County Press* published at Friendship, Wisconsin. In 1871 he was assistant clerk of the Wisconsin State Senate, retaining the position three years. In 1875 he removed to Iowa and purchased the *Mitchell County News* at Osage, having as a partner G. W. Bennett. In 1877 he sold his interest in that paper and in February, 1878, purchased the *Worth County Eagle* at Northwood. In 1883 he admitted Almond R. Miller to a partnership. In 1884 he served as chief clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives of the Twentieth General Assembly. At the same session Frank D. Jackson was secretary of the Senate, the noted friendship of these two men doubtless being made, or at least augmented, at this time. Late that year Mr. Foster began the organization at Marshalltown of the Royal Union Life Insurance Company. By 1886 it was established in Des Moines with Frank D. Jackson president and Sidney A. Foster secretary. The company achieved importance in Iowa and the West, Messrs. Jackson and Foster remaining in their respective positions until their retirement in 1924, the company finally being taken over by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. Besides giving his chief energies to his insurance business, Mr. Foster engaged in other activities. He led in establishing Waveland Golf Course, in the city's purchase of much public park land, including parts of Birdland, Greenwood, Waveland and Grand View parks, and in the beautification of the river front. He was an ardent Republican and for years he aided the party by going on the stump under direction of the state committee. He loved not only Des Moines, but also Iowa, and is the author of the famous maxim, "In all that is good, Iowa affords the best." He was a Mason, a Shriner, a member of the Wakonda Country Club and Hyperion Field Club, was an honorary alumnus of the State University of Iowa, and was a member of the Society of Sons of the American Revolution and president of the Iowa State Society in 1926. He had the capacity for making friends, was a man of energy, versatility and originality, a public speaker of ability, and a worthy public citizen.

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WILLIAM ORSON PAYNE was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, May 7, 1860, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, December 15, 1935. Burial was at Nevada, Iowa. His parents were William Pierce Payne and Adaline Maria (Brown) Payne. His father was a Universalist minister who served several churches in the East (see *ANNALS OF IOWA*, Vol. XIV, p. 159) before removing in 1874 to Mitchellville, Iowa, where he had charge as principal of Mitchell Seminary. In 1875 the family removed to Nevada, Story County, where in 1877 William O. was graduated from the Nevada High School in its first graduating class. In 1882 he was graduated in liberal arts from the State University of Iowa, and in 1883, from the Law Department of the University. He then returned to Nevada and joined with his parents in the publication of the *Nevada Representative* which they had acquired. This work he continued with but little interruption as associate editor and finally as editor until 1917. In 1888 he was first assistant clerk of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-

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