



BRONZE BUST OF GEORGE W. CLARKE
By Christian Petersen, 1933.

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

NOTABLE DEATHS

GEORGE W. CLARKE was born on a farm in Shelby County, Indiana, October 24, 1852, and died in Adel, Iowa, November 28, 1936. Burial was in Oakdale Cemetery, Adel. His parents, John and Eliza J. Clarke, removed in October, 1856, to a farm a mile and a half southeast of Drakeville, Davis County, Iowa. There George grew to manhood, helped on the farm, and attended local public school. He taught school for about a year in all, first in the country, then in Drakeville, and in Bloomfield. In 1874 he entered Oskaloosa College and was graduated in 1877. He read law for a brief time in the offices of Lafferty & Johnson at Oskaloosa, then entered the Law School of the State University of Iowa from which he was graduated in 1878. The same year he established himself in the practice of law at Adel. He was soon elected justice of the peace and served four years. In 1882 he joined with John B. White of Adel in the firm of White & Clarke, which in course of time came to be regarded as one of the leading law firms of that part of Iowa. It existed for nearly half a century and when Mr. Clarke's other interests required his retirement he turned this work over to his son Charles F. Clarke. In 1899 George W. Clarke was elected representative from Dallas County, was re-elected in 1901 and again in 1903, and served in the Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, and Thirtieth general assemblies, and because the biennial election amendment was adopted at the general election of 1904, and the terms of the members of the Thirtieth General Assembly were thereby extended another session, he served in the Thirty-first General Assembly. He was elected speaker of the Thirtieth and Thirty-first assemblies. In 1908 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, and won it in the first primary election in the history of the state. His competitors were Bernard Murphy and James H. Wilson. He won at the general election over his Democratic opponent, D. A. Ray. For re-election as lieutenant governor in 1910 he had no opposition for the nomination, and in the general election won over his Democratic opponent, Parley Sheldon. He became a candidate for governor in 1912 and won his party nomination over Perry G. Holden and Aaron V. Proudfoot, and won at the polls over Edward G. Dunn, Democrat, and John L. Stevens, Progressive, his plurality over Dunn being 1,699. For re-election as governor in 1914 he won the nomination over C. G. Lee and John W. Rowley, and in the general election defeated John T. Hamilton, Democrat, and George C. White, Progressive, his plurality over Hamilton being 25,845. On retiring from the governorship in

January, 1917, he served one year as dean of Drake University College of Law, and soon thereafter returned to Adel and resumed the law practice for a few years. He engaged in no further activities in politics except that in 1926 he was chairman of a committee managing A. B. Cummins' campaign for re-election to the United States Senate. As a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Clarke at once took high rank as a man of judgment and knowledge. Both as speaker of the House and as president of the Senate when lieutenant governor he won encomiums for his fairness and skill as a presiding officer. In the office of governor he exhibited the qualities of statesmanship and courage. The reorganization of rural schools, the development of permanent roads, workmen's compensation, and Capitol Grounds extension were outstanding subjects and achievements during his administration. His urgent recommendation to the General Assembly of 1913 resulted in the passing of an act providing for the levying of a small special tax extending over several years to provide for the cost of the extension. During Governor Clarke's campaign for re-election in 1914 he was severely criticized for his part in increasing the state tax to pay for the extension. He acknowledged he was to blame, if any one was, and argued it out on the public platforms, and won. He constantly called in each official he believed was aware of conditions intended to be corrected and those to be accounted for, in the phases of finance, legislation, litigation and construction. Thus came about a series of conferences which the secretary of the Executive Council, A. H. Davison, Attorney General George Cosson, and legislative leaders, bankers and business men and with all of them he devised plans he was convinced were wise. He carried his own conviction into the minds of those he consulted and so created his most conspicuous contribution to his state of his time. He was a man of strong convictions, high ideals, a lover of nature and of the beautiful, and a lover of his fellow man—a clean, conscientious, Christian gentleman.

Mrs. ALEX MILLER (Eunice Viola Babcock) was born on a farm near Washington, Iowa, March 1, 1871, and died in Des Moines January 24, 1937. Burial was in Elm Grove Cemetery, Washington. When she was about five years old her parents, Nathan L. and Ophelia Smith Babcock, removed with their family to Washington. She attended public school in the city, was a student in the old Washington Academy, and later in Iowa Wesleyan College. She taught in rural schools in Washington County, and at the age of twenty-four (1895) married Alex R. Miller (see ANNALS OF IOWA, Vol. XVI, p. 310), editor of the *Washington Democrat*. Two daughters and one son were born to them, the son dying in infancy. Mrs. Miller was active in the church societies of the Methodist Church, aided in the woman suffrage movement, was a four-minute speaker during the World War, was a member of the Daughters of the Revolution, a member of the Professional Women's Club, and of the League of Women Voters. When still in school she

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