EDITORIAL

NOTABLE DEATHS

WESLEY GREENE was born at Yellow Springs, Pennsylvania, November 8, 1849, and died in Lakewood, Cleveland, Ohio, March 28, 1935. Burial was in Lakewood Park Cemetery. His parents were Allen J. and Sarah (Stanton) Greene. In 1855 the family removed to a farm in Scott County, Iowa, seven miles northeast of Davenport, in Lincoln Township. He was graduated from Iowa State College, Ames, in 1873, majoring in botany under that inspiring teacher, Dr. C. E. Bessey. He was also graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1875, and followed that by the practice of law for several years, first in Winterset and later in Davenport. But horticulture and floriculture lured him away and he engaged in those fields in Scott County for twenty years. He was secretary of the Union Horticultural Society and . of the Tri-City Florists Club in the 1880's and 1890's, then became secretary of the State Horticultural Society in 1899, serving until 1920. He was secretary of the Society of Iowa Florists, was a member of the Iowa Park and Forestry Association, and for years was superintendent of the Floricultural Department of the State Fair. He belonged to many scientific associations, had a personal friendship with the leading scientists of Iowa and of the country, and was very useful and helpful to the people of Iowa in the field of horticulture. He was the author of Plants of Iowa, a bulletin of 264 pages of the State Horticultural Department, 1907. He was greatly interested in the establishment of the Iowa State Board of Conservation, and was a member by appointment of Governor Harding of the Plant Life Commission which was charged with checking and passing upon plans and species for replanting the improved Capitol Grounds in 1917. About 1921 he removed to Cleveland. Ohio, where he spent his last few years with relatives.

WILLIAM ASHLEY SUNDAY was born near Ames, Iowa, November 19, 1862, and died in Chicago, Illinois, November 6, 1935. Burial was in Forest Home Cemetery, Chicago. His parents were William and Mary Jane (Cory) Sunday. The father enlisted in Company E, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, August 14, 1862, and died of disease December 22, 1862, at Camp Patterson, Missouri. William A. grew up with his mother, lived some time with other relatives, attended public school in the country, and was graduated from Nevada High School. As a boy at Ames and Nevada he had developed proficiency as a baseball player, and in 1883 while playing with the Marshalltown team he attracted the attention of A. C. Anson, the baseball manager, and was invited to play with the Chicago White Stockings. From then until 1890 he was a professional baseball player on the Chicago, Pittsburg, and Philadelphia teams of the National League. In 1891, having been converted at a

meeting in the Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, under the preaching of Harry Munro, he quit baseball and for four years was a Y. M. C. A. worker. In 1896 he went into professional evangelism in which he continued until his death, almost forty years. Starting in a small way he soon developed an efficient organization of helpers. His earlier series of meetings were held in smaller towns in one of the leading church buildings. Later as he went into larger towns a temporary tabernacle would be built and elaborate plans made and carried out mostly through the co-operation of nearly all the local protestant denominations. The congregational singing of immense audiences and the stage settings all contributed to the interest of which the address of Mr. Sunday was the climax. He was dramatic and powerful. His magnetic energy and personality were thrown into the effort. His language was direct, simple, original, arresting, accusing, convincing. He was tempestuous, melodramatic, individualistic, fundamentalistic. Thousands "hit the sawdust trail." The height of his work was reached in about 1917. But he never abated his efforts until physical strength ebbed. It is claimed that in his nearly forty years as evangelist that he preached to more people than did any other man or woman in America up to his time. The general effects of his efforts are believed to have been good in leading thousands into better living. In 1903 Mr. Sunday was ordained a minister in the Presbyterian church. In April, 1918, he was chosen by the Chicago Presbytery as a delegate to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church which met at Columbus, Ohio, in May, 1918.

ROBERT G. SCOTT was born at Le Claire, Scott County, Iowa, April 7, 1845, and died near Camdenton, Camden County, Missouri, September 26, 1935. Burial was in Laughlin Cemetery, near Camdenton. His parents were James and Rebecca (Peterson) Scott. The family removed to a farm in Sugar Creek Township, Cedar County, in 1856. Robert worked on his father's farm and attended public school in the country at intervals. After the firing on Fort Sumpter in 1861 one of the pasture fields of their farm was much used for drilling men preparatory to enlistments in the army. Robert studied military tactics and was elected captain of a local company of boys he drilled. In July, 1862, he tried to enlist in the Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry, and went to the rendezvous at Muscatine. His father protested because of his youth. He returned home and continued drilling boys and young men, until August 31, 1864, when he enlisted as a private among the recruits of Company B of the Twenty-fourth, went to the front at once and saw hard service in the Shenandoah valley. He was with his regiment to the end of the war, being mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, July 17, 1865. Returning home he resumed farming, joined the Grange and was soon writing articles for newspapers in advocacy of reforms in freight rates the farmers asked. In 1875 he was elected representative from Cedar County and served in the Sixteenth General Assembly, and was again

236

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.