

## NOTABLE DEATHS.

EX-GOVERNOR SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD died at his home in Iowa City, on the 1st day of September. He was close upon 81 years of age, and nearly half of his life was a citizen of Iowa. He was a native of Maryland, was educated in the city of Washington, and for several years was a clerk in a drug store at the National Capital. He taught school in York County, Pennsylvania, for some time, and in 1835 accompanied his father and family to Richland County, Ohio, and assisted in clearing up a farm in the heavy woods which then covered a large portion of that State. Tiring of the hard labor and privations of farm life in a new country, he decided in 1841 to study law, entering the office of Judge Bartley, at Mansfield. He was admitted to the bar in 1843, and in 1845 was elected on the Democratic ticket, Prosecuting Attorney for the county, in which position he served with ability for four years. In 1850 he was chosen a delegate to the convention which framed the present Constitution of Ohio, and took an active part in its deliberations. In 1855 he removed to this State, and settled on a farm near Iowa City, where he acquired an interest in a large flouring-mill on the Iowa River. But he did not remain long in private life. The great uprising of the American people against the extension of human slavery into our new Territories was then at its height, and a breaking off from former party affiliations was alarming the old leaders of the Whigs and Democrats. The Republican party was in process of formation, made up of men who were determined to resist the aggressions of slavery. A call had been issued on the 3d of January, 1856, for a State Convention to meet at Iowa City, on the 22d of February, to organize a Republican party in Iowa. Samuel J. Kirkwood was chosen a delegate from Johnson County to that convention. In the evening after its work had been accomplished, an enthusiastic session was held, in which several stirring speeches were made by delegates who afterwards became famous in State and National history. Among these was Mr. Kirkwood. His was among the most impressive speeches of that historic gathering, and from that day he became one of the trusted leaders and counselors of the new party. At the next election he was chosen State Senator from Johnson County, serving four years with marked ability. He was one of the authors of the State banking law enacted by the first session of the Legislature after the adoption of the Constitution of 1857, which first authorized banking in Iowa. At the close of his term he was nominated by the Republicans for Governor and elected over Gen. A. C. Dodge, his Democratic opponent, by 3,200 majority. His administration of the State Government for four years has never been equaled, and he has passed into history as Iowa's "Great War Governor." It was under his administration that the forty-nine regiments of Iowa volunteer soldiers were raised, officered and equipped, which did such honor to the State in the War of the Rebellion. Before the expiration of his term as Governor, Mr. Kirkwood was appointed by President Lincoln, Minister to Denmark, but declined the position. In 1866 he was chosen United States Senator to succeed James Harlan, who had accepted a seat in the Cabinet. In 1875 he was again elected Governor and before the expiration of his term, was chosen United States Senator for six years. Before this term expired, he was invited into Garfield's Cabinet as Secretary of the Interior, where he remained until after the tragic death of the President. He was now well advanced in years and retired to his pleasant home at Iowa City, where for the last ten years of his life he enjoyed freedom from public responsibilities and the profound respect of his fellow citizens. His private life was pure, plain and unostentatious, as his whole public career was patriotic and unselfish. He was actuated by the single inspiration of the public good. In the whole galaxy of Iowa's eminent public men, it is truth to say, that none ever held a warmer place in the affections of her people, or stood higher in their confidence and admiration. It is our hope, in some future number of THE ANNALS, to present a more elaborate study of his life and public services, with several illustrations.

HON. THOMAS MITCHELL died at his home, in Mitchellville, on the 15th of July, 1894. He was born in Claremont, New Hampshire, March 3, 1816. His father died when he was but 16 years of age, and being left without a home, he hired out as a farm laborer. His education was limited to very moderate attendance at the country district schools. He came West in the fall of 1839, working awhile upon a farm near St. Charles, Missouri. In March, 1840, he came to Iowa, stopping at Keosauqua, where he again went to work. During that year he bought a "claim" in Jefferson county. In 1841 he was united in marriage with Elmira Swift, of Thedford, Vermont. In 1844 Mr. Mitchell removed to Polk County, and built a log cabin near Camp Creek, in which he entertained travelers. This was the first house built in the county outside of Fort Des Moines. In 1846 he entered 1,080 acres of land, in what is now Beaver township. Mr. Mitchell was present when the treaty was made with the Indians occupying this part of the country, by which they sold their lands to the General Government. In 1846 he was elected Sheriff of the county. In 1857 he was elected Representative in the Legislature, serving in the first General Assembly in Des Moines, where the new capital had been established and a State House erected the year before. In 1867 Mr. Mitchell founded the town of Mitchellville, and as long as he lived no saloon was ever permitted to exist in that thriving village. In 1873 he was elected to the State Senate, serving four years. He was largely instrumental in procuring the establishment of the "Girls' Industrial School" at Mitchellville. He was a prominent and influential member of the Universalist denomination during his whole mature life. Major E. H. Conger said of Thomas Mitchell that "for fifty years he had been the counselor of the leading men of the State. He had all this time a voice in the affairs of the State, for his advice was always sought. His influence over men was wonderful, and it was great because he never betrayed it. He gave to all good purposes; his life was one continuous charity, one continuous effort to do good. The poor were never sent away, and the weak never asked in vain from him." Prof. C. C. Cory said of him: "Poor in lands and money, but in all other respects the richest man that ever died in Iowa. In all that makes true riches, he was most rich. He bore a good name and won the respect and love of his fellow-men."

THOMAS S. WRIGHT, eldest son of Hon. George G. Wright, died in New York, from fracture of his skull by a fall, on the 26th of July. He was born in Keosauqua in 1845, and spent his boyhood in Van Buren County, finishing his school education at the State University. He enlisted in the Third Iowa Cavalry in March, 1864, and in November was promoted to Adjutant. In December of the same year he was made a prisoner near Memphis, and sent to Andersonville, where he suffered all the horrors of that infamous pen until the next spring. He never recovered from the effects of the inhuman treatment to which he was subjected, and to the end of his life patiently endured the broken health which so many of the survivors of that den of horrors must carry to their graves. After the war he took the law course in the State University. He entered upon the practice of his profession in Des Moines, as a partner of the late T. F. Withrow. He became an eminent lawyer, and upon the death of Mr. Withrow was appointed general counsel for the Rock Island Railroad Company, removing to Chicago, where he resided at the time of his lamented death. He made a brilliant record as a soldier, he was a profound lawyer, but he was most prized, by those who knew him best, for his fine personal and social qualities.

THOMAS LYMAN, who resided in an early day at Maquoketa, Jackson County, Iowa, died at his residence in Downer's Grove, Illinois, on the 6th day of July, at the age of 70 years. He was born in Vernon, Oneida County, N. Y., March 10, 1824, the son of Rev. Orange Lyman, who came West in 1839, and settled upon government land near Downer's Grove. When the family arrived at Chicago the total number of houses was but 450. In the winter of 1838-9 Thomas attended

school at Fort Dearborn, returning in the spring to his father's farm where he remained until 1843. He then went to Grandville, Mich., where he worked as a clerk in a store until 1847. On Dec. 3 of that year he was married to Miss Percie A. Clark, of Andover, O., who survives him. He and his brother, Stephen D. Lyman, were engaged for two or three years in merchandising at Rockton, Ill. In 1851 he settled in Maquoketa, where he started a general store, continuing in business until 1857, when he returned to Chicago. Ten years later he settled in the beautiful village of Downer's Grove, which was his home until his death. He was largely engaged in the real estate business, and was almost continuously a land owner in Iowa. One of the most interesting episodes in Mr. Lyman's life was meeting with old John Brown while the latter was aiding slaves to escape from Southern bondage. Brown had several closely covered wagons, each of which contained fugitive slaves on their way to the land of freedom. Mr. Lyman was on horseback and overtook the strange cavalcade several miles west of Des Moines. He saw at a glance that the members of the party were well armed, and ready any moment to defend themselves. A conversation at once sprang up between him and Brown, from which the latter soon learned that he had nothing to fear from Mr. Lyman who was a strong anti-slavery man. Four or five miles west of the city Brown turned off southward, crossing the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers at fords where there was less likelihood of meeting spies or U. S. Marshals than on the direct route. An account of this affair was published in the *Des Moines Register* several years ago. Mr. Lyman was a born sportsman, and in the old days when birds were plenty, came every year to Iowa during the shooting season. He was an able, far-seeing business man, a most genial, estimable gentleman, highly intelligent, and a lover of books and work of arts. He was a noted breeder of Jersey cattle, and had kept a fine herd of these beautiful animals many years. He had made for himself an ideal home at Downer's Grove, distinguished for refinement, old-fashioned courtesy and generous hospitality.

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DR. CHARLES L. CHAMBERS died at his home, in Cedar Rapids, on the 5th day of August, at the age of 76. He was born in Staunton, Virginia, in 1818. He was educated as a physician and settled at Muscatine, Iowa, in 1847. He practiced his profession in Tipton, Cedar County, for about thirty years, attaining high rank as a physician and surgeon. Upon the organization of the 35th Iowa Infantry, of which Judge Rothrock was Lieutenant Colonel, Dr. Chambers was commissioned Surgeon. He remained in the service until after the surrender of Vicksburg, when impaired health compelled him to resign. He spent the last twelve years of his life at Cedar Rapids. He was highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in eastern Iowa.

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EDWARD M. CROW, who died in Linn County, on the 28th of July, was the first white settler in that county. He was born in Orange County, Indiana, in 1816. He came to Iowa in 1837, and made a claim near where the village of Viola now stands. Nov. 14, 1839, he married Miss Elizabeth Bennett, who was the first school teacher in Linn county. Mr. Crow was a good citizen and a prominent and very successful farmer. He endured all the privations and hardships inseparable from pioneer life, and made of his old homestead one of the most attractive places in that county.

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DR. WILLIAM R. SMITH, of Sioux City, died at his home on the 1st of July. He was born in Ocean County, N. J., December 30, 1828. He studied medicine and attended lectures in New York City, at the old College of Physicians and Surgeons, and first began practice at Macon, Mich. In 1856 he came to Iowa, settling at Sioux City, where he practiced medicine for eleven years. In 1861, when there were Indian troubles on the frontier, a volunteer company of mounted

rifemen was raised to protect the settlers, of which Dr. Smith was chosen First Lieutenant. In 1862, when the terrible Sioux massacres desolated western Minnesota, Dr. Smith was chosen chairman of a vigilance committee organized to protect Sioux City and vicinity. In the winter of 1863, he was commissioned by Governor Kirkwood to visit the Iowa soldiers in the field and hospitals and inspect their sanitary condition. He visited those in Grant's army at Vicksburg, and was instrumental in doing much for their comfort. In 1863 he was appointed Surgeon of the Board of Enrollment, serving in that capacity during the draft of 1864. In 1865 he was appointed Receiver of the U. S. Land Office for the Sioux City district, and served with fidelity until the office was removed to Des Moines, in 1878. He was one of the incorporators of the First National Bank of Sioux City, and also of the Sioux City & Pembina Railroad Company. In 1878 he was appointed by Governor Gear one of the Commissioners to the Paris Exposition, and while absent made a tour of Europe. Dr. Smith was a prominent Unitarian, helped to organize and build Unity church at Sioux City, and was for many years president of the board of trustees. Few men in northwestern Iowa were as widely known, and none more highly esteemed by all classes of citizens. For nearly forty years he had been prominent in all good works for the development of that part of the State, and the building up of the flourishing city where he spent his days.

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COLONEL RICHARD K. MILLER died at his home in Des Moines on the 27th day of August. He was born in Indiana in 1838, and came to Iowa in 1860, settling in Polk county. He first enlisted in the State service in 1861, in an expedition fitted out to protect the frontier. In March, 1862, he joined Company 1, 14th Infantry, serving until he was disabled by an injury to his eyes, when he returned to his old home in Indiana. There he was appointed Captain of Company I, of the 128th Indiana Volunteers. He afterwards served as Colonel of his regiment. At the close of the war he returned to Des Moines and was elected Treasurer of Polk County, serving two terms with ability and fidelity. Marching with the old soldiers on "Battle Flag Day," he was prostrated by the terrible heat, from the effects of which he died a few days later. He was widely known and universally esteemed.

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DR. MYRON UNDERWOOD, of Hardin County, died suddenly of heart disease, at his home in Eldora, on the 12th of August. He was born at Montville, Ohio, August 7, 1833, and was a graduate of Rush Medical College. He came to Iowa in 1854, settling at Steamboat Rock. The next year he removed to Eldora, where he practiced his profession up to the time of his death. He was Assistant Surgeon of the 12th Iowa Infantry during the War of the Rebellion. In 1886 he was elected to the State Senate, ably representing the district which comprised the counties of Hardin and Grundy. He was a public-spirited citizen, whose life had been eminently useful, and his name will long be borne in kindly remembrance.

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JAMES BROWNLIE, who recently died at his home in Long Grove, Scott county, was one of the early pioneers of that part of Iowa. He was born in Scotland, in 1807, and in 1838 came to Iowa which had just been organized as a Territory. He selected a claim at Long Grove where he made a pleasant home which he occupied to the day of his death. It was at his place that the notable picnic was held July 4, 1845, at which nearly everybody in that county had assembled to celebrate the day, when Col. Davenport was murdered at his house on Rock Island by the Fox and Hodges gang of desperadoes. Mr. Brownlie was known by all of the old residents of that section of the State and highly esteemed.

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