

## NOTABLE DEATHS

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ALLEN was born at Salem, Indiana, April 27, 1829, and died at Hollywood, California, April 14, 1914. The body was cremated and the ashes placed in the family lot in Woodland cemetery, Des Moines. He came to Des Moines in 1848, bringing several thousand dollars with him and began active and extensive business operations. He early exhibited great talent as a business man. With Jonathan Lyon, he at once entered the general mercantile business on the corner of Second and Vine streets. In 1850 with Charles Van he built a steam sawmill at the south end of the old Coon River bridge. There was a great quantity of good timber near, especially black walnut, and they had a big business. In 1851 he and R. W. Sypher purchased a steamboat at St. Louis and put it in the Des Moines River traffic. In 1855 he established a bank and soon obtained an immense business. He successfully came through the wildcat banking period of 1855 to 1858, maintaining his credit and winning recognition as one of the leading bankers of the West. In 1860 he was a member of the city council. In 1865 he organized the first gas company of Des Moines. The same year with others he organized the Hawkeye Insurance Company. He became a stockholder and director in the Rock Island railroad and assisted it to reach Des Moines in 1867. In 1869 he built on Grand Avenue the most magnificent residence in Iowa, later and now the mansion of Mr. F. M. Hubbell. The same year he was elected to the state senate and served in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth General Assemblies and was influential in securing the legislation providing for the new Capitol building. In 1871 he organized the Des Moines Water Company. In 1874 he went to Chicago and took over the Cook County National Bank. Here he met disaster, the failure swallowing up his entire fortune, including his Des Moines properties. Soon thereafter he went to Southern California where he was interested for a time in fruit growing, had an important position supervising forestry service in California for the Federal Government for some years, but for several years of his later life, lived in retirement. He is credited with doing more toward developing the city of Des Moines in its early history than any other one man.

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BERNARD MURPHY was born at Brookline, Massachusetts, September 24, 1847, and died at Vinton, Iowa, February 28, 1918. He came with his parents to Poweshiek County, Iowa, in 1859, where they located on a farm about four miles south-west of Belle Plaine. He worked on farms in this neighborhood and in the south part of Benton County until 1867 when he went to Vinton and commenced to learn the printer's trade. Remaining there until 1870 he went to Des Moines and was

employed by the Clarksons, the proprietors of the *State Register*, for three years, except for a short time he spent in Denver working on the *Rocky Mountain News*. In 1871 he assisted in establishing the *Traffic Clipper*, but in 1876 became a partner in the ownership of the *Vinton Eagle*. In 1886 he became the sole owner of the *Eagle*, and continued as such until 1913 when his son became part owner with him. For some years he was a member of the city council of Vinton. He was postmaster at Vinton from 1897 to 1904, and state printer from 1901 to 1906. He was an alternate delegate to the Republican national convention at Minneapolis in 1892 and was a presidential elector on the Republican ticket in 1916. He was grand chancellor of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Knights of Pythias, in 1901 and was representative to the supreme lodge of that order from 1912 until the time of his death. He was assisting in his work for the Iowa College for the Blind at Vinton, and his work for Linnie Hagedorn, the blind and deaf girl, the Helen Kohler of Iowa, will long be remembered. His interest in education was such that he was appointed as a member of the Better School Commission. His greatest work, however, was on the editorial page of his paper. In originality and in creative and constructive power he was not excelled by any writer in the state. He took an active part in district and state editorial association meetings, and for years attended them and always gave interest and inspiration by his presence. He was also a well known figure at Republican district and state conventions, where he had a large influence. He had good judgment, good ability, rugged honesty, a sense of humor and a love of his fellow men that made of him a real leader in Iowa.

Volney P. Twomey was born near Farlington, Van Buren County, Iowa, February 21, 1842, and died at Des Moines, February 21, 1948. His parents had emigrated from Massachusetts with the Pico Trailight Company founded by Abner Kneeland near Farlington in 1839 and named Sutherland. A few months after his birth his father died and the widowed mother with her infant son removed to Keosauqua. There he attended public school and Lane's Academy. He volunteered as a private in Company F, Second Iowa Infantry and was wounded in May 27, 1861. In October, 1861, he was promoted to seventh corporal and detailed as a color bearer. In the famous charge on Ft. Donelson, five color bearers of his regiment were slain down in succession, when he went up the colors, and although knocked down once by a spent ball, succeeded in carrying them forward and planting them on top of the enemy's works. He was then promoted to lieutenant. At Corinth he was severely wounded and again at Donelson. In June, 1861, he was promoted to adjutant of the regiment and in November became captain of Company K. In 1865 he was acting inspector general of the 15th Army Corps. He was mustered out July 12, 1865, returned home, attended Bryant & Stratton's Business College at Burlington for

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