

NOTABLE DEATHS

WILLIAM LYTLE CARPENTER was born at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, October 5, 1841, and died at his home in Des Moines, September 26, 1915. He came with his parents' family to Dubuque, Iowa, in 1852, and a few years later they removed to a farm in Black Hawk County. He enlisted in the Thirty-second Iowa Infantry in 1861 and served four years, becoming adjutant of the regiment. After the war he returned to farming in Black Hawk County, but in 1866 removed to Des Moines. For many years he was secretary of the Iowa State Grange and as secretary of the Farmers' Protective Association lead in organizing a barb wire manufacturing company in Des Moines and became its manager. The famous legal battle of the barb wire trust against the independent manufacturers was fought out over this plant. Mr. Carpenter had associated with him in this contest such leaders as John H. Given, Henry Wallace, James Wilson, Col. John Scott, L. S. Coffin, M. L. Devin, G. H. Crosby, B. F. Gue and others. Hon. A. B. Cummins, then a rising young lawyer, was their attorney, and won for them a signal victory, the price of barb wire soon declining from fourteen cents to three cents a pound. Mr. Carpenter became prominent in politics. He was the Democratic candidate for congress in 1886 against Maj. Conger in the Seventh District, was elected mayor of Des Moines in 1888 and served one term, and was custodian of the State Capitol under Governor Boies from 1890 to 1894. He lived in retirement the last few years of his life. He left many of the records of his activities in the collections of the Historical Department of Iowa.

CHRISTOPHER T. JONES was born in Barren County, Kentucky, September 11, 1837, and died at his home in Des Moines, September 14, 1915. He came with his parents to Iowa in 1842, settling in Louisa County. The following year he was left an orphan in the care of friends, but at twelve years of age became self-supporting. In 1850 he went to Washington, attended public school and took a partial course in Washington College, which was broken up by the war. He studied law and was admitted to practice in 1859. When the war broke out he enlisted in Company H, Second Iowa Infantry. In the fall of 1861 he was discharged because of sickness and a hurt he received while in the service, and from which he never fully recovered. In 1865 he was elected clerk of the courts in Washington County and served until 1875. Then for a few years he practiced law, but because of poor health he abandoned it. In 1880 he was a Republican presidential elector. He came to Des Moines that year and on January 1, 1881, went into the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court as an assistant, remaining for two years. From 1883 to 1895 he was deputy clerk under G. B. Pray. He was clerk of the Supreme Court from 1895 to 1903. For some years after that he assisted later incumbents of that office. He was an efficient public servant.

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