

NOTABLE DEATHS

Of difficulties experienced by all historical societies and similar institutions the past three or four years, our department has had its full share. Nothing, however, has driven us from the sacred duty of noting and recording the passing of our notable citizens and pioneers. The "Notable Deaths" feature of the *Annals*, made standard and indispensable by our lamented predecessor, Charles Aldrich, has been made the particular charge of the publication division of the Historical Department, and the complete file, duly edited, lies ready and is to be published portion by portion until it appears without a skip.

JOHN R. SAGE was born at Blenheim, New York, December 29, 1832, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, May 28, 1919. He attended common school and, at eighteen years of age, became a country school teacher, removing soon thereafter to western New York. In 1856 he was licensed to preach by the Universalist Church, having studied in the family of Rev. D. P. and Mrs. Mary A. Livermore. He was preaching at Little Falls, New York, when, in 1862, he enlisted as a private in the One Hundred and Twenty-first New York Infantry. He was commissioned chaplain of the regiment and served as such until the summer of 1863 when he was discharged on account of physical disability. In 1869 he came to Mitchellville, Iowa, as pastor of the Universalist church there. In 1877 he gave up his ministerial work and, with Ralph Robinson, established the *Newton Journal*. In 1879 he sold his interest in the *Journal* and became editor of the *Cedar Rapids Republican*. In 1883 he sold his interest in the *Republican* and was employed for a time as editor of the *Des Moines Daily Capital*. When that paper changed hands he was employed several years as correspondent for and editorial writer on the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*. In 1890, after the establishment of the Iowa Weather and Crop Service he was appointed director. This position he filled for twenty years and became an authority on meteorological science. For several years before his death he had been in retirement. He loved literature, music and nature.

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