

## NOTABLE DEATHS

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LORENZO FRANK ANDREWS was born in Athol, Massachusetts, March 8, 1828; he died at Des Moines, July 8, 1915. When two years of age his parents removed to Brandon, Vermont, remained there for ten years, and then returned to Massachusetts. He attended the common schools and had one term in Troy Conference Academy at Poultney, Vermont. From sixteen to eighteen years of age he was an apprentice in the office of the Barre (Mass.) *Patriot*. In 1850 he removed to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and worked in the office of the *Telegraph*. Later he established the *Western Union* at Niles, Mich., which was destroyed by fire; a weekly paper at Girard, Pa., which he sold; served as city editor of the *Daily Northwestern* at Oshkosh, Wis., for a year and as assistant editor of the *Daily Courier* at La Fayette, Ind., for two years. In 1863 he removed to Des Moines and entered the office of Mills & Company, publishers. While working there he read law, entered the first class of the Iowa Law School, graduated in 1866, was admitted to the practice and appointed United States Commissioner for Iowa. He was State correspondent of the *Chicago Evening Journal* for thirty years and at times for the *Chicago Tribune*, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and *New York Tribune*. He was night editor of the *Daily Register* under Mills & Company and city editor of the *Daily Republican* and *Daily State Journal*. In 1880 he was appointed the first secretary of the State Board of Health. A new law requiring the secretary to be a physician was passed the next year, and he became assistant secretary, serving for eighteen years and assisting in the passage of numerous important laws conducive to public health and safety. He reported the proceedings of the legislature for more than twenty years. In recent years Mr. Andrews devoted his time to collecting and recording facts and biographies of early days and early settlers in the city and State. In addition to his numerous special articles he was the author of "Pioneers of Polk County," a two-volume work published in 1908.

CLARENCE S. WILSON was born in Louisiana, November 11, 1840; he died in Des Moines, August 18, 1915. He came to the North when a young man, and as a rider on the Overland Pony Express carried mail across the plains for some years. He went to Winterset, Iowa, about 1861 and obtained employment as a printer. He enlisted in Company D, First Iowa Cavalry, on June 13, 1861, and after eighteen months' service, received his discharge

on account of disability on February 14, 1863. He returned to Iowa and in the winter of 1864-65 located at Pella, where he established the *Pella Blade*. In 1866 he was appointed a clerk in the House of Representatives. In 1871 he removed to Des Moines and for six years was city editor on the *Iowa State Register*. In 1878 he served as Representative from Polk county in the Seventeenth General Assembly and was instrumental in passing the law to establish the board of railroad commissioners. In 1887 he became one of the founders and first editor of the *Des Moines Daily News*. He afterward disposed of his interests in this paper and was city editor on the *Des Moines Daily Capital* for a time and did similar work in St. Joseph and Atchison. He removed to California several years ago on account of his health, returning to Iowa for special treatment about a year before his death. He was considered an ideal reporter and his editorials were widely read and quoted.

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CHARLES EDWIN BESSEY was born at Milton, Ohio, May 21, 1845; he died at Lincoln, Nebraska, February 25, 1915. He was brought up on a farm and received his early education in the common schools and in the academies at Seville and Canaan, Ohio. He was graduated from the scientific course in the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing, in 1869, and studied at Harvard under Prof. Asa Gray, 1872-1873 and 1875-1876. From 1870 to 1884 he was professor of botany in the Iowa Agricultural College, then in its pioneer days, and served as acting president during the year 1882. In 1884 he was appointed to the chair of botany in the University of Nebraska and filled that position until his death, also acting as chancellor 1888-1891, 1899-1900 and 1907, and as head dean since 1909. He was editor of the department of botany of the *American Naturalist* from 1880 to 1897 and of *Science* since that date. He was probably the most noted botanist in the country, an investigator of international repute and had served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1910-11; Botanical Society of America, 1895-96; Society Promotion of Agricultural Science, 1889-91; Department of Natural Science, National Educational Association, 1895-96; American Microscopical Society, 1902. He was the author of many text books on botanical subjects and a contributor to the leading scientific periodicals.

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MELVIN H. BYERS was born in Noble county, Ohio, January 12, 1846; he died at Des Moines, July 27, 1915. He removed with his father's family to Glenwood, Iowa, in 1853. He worked on a farm and attended the public schools until 1864 when he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and participated in several important engagements. He was mustered out with his regiment at New Orleans, August 10, 1865. He re-

turned to Mills county and assisted his father upon the farm for several years, and afterward opened a general store at Glenwood which he conducted for ten years. Later he engaged in the real estate and abstract business. He was elected county recorder of Mills county and held that office six years. He was also mayor of Glenwood for three terms. In 1879 he enlisted in the Iowa National Guard and in 1898 received from Governor Shaw the appointment as Adjutant General of Iowa. The outbreak of the Spanish-American War called for special effort and he organized four regiments of infantry to serve in that war. He was re-appointed Adjutant General by Governor Cummins and his whole service extended from 1898 to 1905. At the expiration of this period he engaged in the life insurance business at Des Moines. In 1909 he was appointed state oil inspector and filled that position until his death.

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CRAIG L. WRIGHT was born in Keosauqua, Iowa, December 5, 1846; he died in Los Angeles, California, August 6, 1915. He was the son of Judge George G. and Hannah M. (Dibble) Wright. He attended the public schools of Keosauqua and was graduated from the State University of Iowa at the age of 19. He received his diploma from the Law Department of the University, at Des Moines, the next year, and was admitted to the bar in 1868. He removed to Sioux City the same year and entered into a partnership with William L. Joy which continued until 1887. From 1887 to 1890 he practiced alone. Then with Senator E. H. Hubbard he formed the law firm of Wright & Hubbard which continued until 1896 when a third partner, A. F. Call, was taken into the firm. In 1905 Mr. Hubbard withdrew, and the firm became Wright & Call. Mr. Wright's special field was corporation law and he was recognized as the leading lawyer of Sioux City. He was always greatly interested in politics and took a prominent part in workings of the Republican party.

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RICE H. BELL was born in Marshall county, West Virginia, September 7, 1859; he died at Keokuk, Iowa, July 26, 1915. He worked on a farm and attended the public schools and was graduated from West Alexandria Academy in 1880. He removed to Keokuk the same year, began the study of law with John H. Craig and was admitted to the bar in 1882. He served as justice of the peace and judge of the superior court. He was city clerk of Keokuk for a number of years. He was a Republican in politics and had served as chairman of the Lee county central committee. Memorial services were held by the Keokuk Bar Association of which he was a member.

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