

NOTABLE DEATHS.

MRS. JANE (UNDERDOWN) YOUNG was born in the county of Kent, England, in 1830; she died at the Battle Creek, Mich., Sanitarium, September 7, 1903. She came to reside in Webster City, with her brother Daniel, a pioneer hotel-keeper, in the spring of 1857. On the 23d of September, 1858, she was united in marriage with Kendall Young, one of the early merchants of that town. As a business man, Mr. Young was greatly prospered and became the principal founder of Webster City's First National Bank. When he died in 1896, the people of that town were agreeably surprised to learn that his entire estate had been left to Webster City for the purpose of founding a public library. The only incumbrance that was attached to the will was a provision that Mrs. Young, who had been for some years an invalid, should be tenderly cared for during her life time, and that the town should not come into possession of the property until her death. The law would have given Mrs. Young a share of the estate regardless of any will that her husband might have left, but she "elected to take under and assist in carrying out the purpose of the will, rather than claim her statutory rights." In pursuance of this, she very generously gave the use, for library purposes, of their commodious home, one of the finest residences in the town, together with a certain part of the income derived from the estate, its accumulations being much in excess of her own needs. She also manifested a strong disposition to economize as far as possible in her expenditures so that more money could go into the library. She personally gave to the library trustees a stated sum per year, and this they wisely expended for fine art books. From that contribution a collection has grown of which all who are interested in the Kendall Young Library are especially proud. The matter was taken up in the district court upon the joint application of Mrs. Young and the executor, and it was ordered that her wishes concerning the provisions of the will be carried into effect. The trustees at once came into possession of the residence, with sufficient money to begin the purchase of books, and it was but a short time until the Kendall Young Library was in successful operation. The will provides for the appropriation of \$25,000 for the erection of a library building. The whole estate will amount to from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The bequest is probably the largest and most generous ever made in the State for the purpose of founding a public library, and the project was equally approved by both husband and wife. Mr. Young appointed the first board of Trustees as follows: F. D. Young, W. J. Covil, J. W. Young, Samuel Baxter and E. D. Burgess, who will proceed at once to erect the library building. Mrs. Young's remains were brought back to Webster City and interred by the side of her husband. They were pioneers who builded wisely in their day and generation, and their munificent benefaction will keep their memories green.

STEPHEN P. YEOMANS was born at German Flats, N. Y., January 23, 1822; he died at the Soldiers' Home, Marshalltown, Iowa, September 8, 1903. He came to Iowa in 1837, settling near Mt. Pleasant, Henry county, where he labored on a farm in summer, and taught school in winter, during three years. He then studied medicine, graduating at Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1854. He also graduated from the Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, in 1871. After acquiring his profession he practiced medicine at Agency City and Sheridan, Lucas county, Iowa. In 1853 he was elected to the Iowa house of representatives by the district composed of Lucas, Wayne, Decatur and Clarke counties. At the opening of the United States land office in Sioux City, he was appointed register by President Pierce, and was re-appointed by President Buchanan. He held that office six years. During the civil war he was appointed assistant surgeon of the

Seventh Iowa Cavalry, remaining with that regiment until after the war closed. He was not mustered out of the service until May 17, 1866, his discharge dating from Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. He then settled at Clinton, where he practiced his profession until 1879, when he removed to Charles City, which for many years was his home, though he spent a number of years at Osage, Mitchell county, serving in both places as a member of the board of United States pension examiners. He was also a trustee of the Iowa State Agricultural College for six years. Dr. Yeomans was a prominent member of the Iowa Department of the G. A. R., and also of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association of Iowa. He was an excellent Christian gentleman, who possessed an admirable faculty of making friends. As has been seen, he had resided in many localities in Iowa, in all of which he is remembered with great kindness. He was an eloquent speaker, and a clear and able writer. No man received a heartier welcome at the biennial reunions of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association. The Historical Department possesses a tasteful memorial of Dr. Yeomans. A few years before his death he deposited with the curator his commission as "Second Lieutenant, Company —, in the 3d Brigade of the 1st Division of Militia of the Territory of Iowa, with rank from July 24, 1840. "The company letter is covered by a blot and indistinguishable. This is signed by "Robert Lucas, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of said Territory." It bears this attestation: "By the Governor's command, Ver Planck Van Antwerp, Adjutant-General." It is accompanied by a signed photograph of the handsome old doctor and a letter in which he briefly sketches the principal events in his long and busy life.

CHARLES ASHTON was born in Heighington, Lincolnshire, England, June 2, 1823; he died at Guthrie Center, Iowa, August 26, 1903. He came to America with his parents in his tenth year, the family settling in Richland county, Ohio. He had but limited opportunities for acquiring an education and to a great extent educated himself. In 1847 he was licensed as an exhorter in the Methodist church, and shortly after became a local preacher. In 1870 he was transferred from the Ohio conference to that of Des Moines, Iowa. He was first stationed at Guthrie Center, afterward having pastorates in Harlan, Dexter, Carlisle, and Guthrie Center. In 1861 he was kicked by a vicious horse, from the effects of which he never recovered. This accident kept him out of the Union Army in the civil war. About the year 1882 he became the editor and proprietor of *The Guthrian*, a republican journal which had been established in the early seventies. In this new field of enterprise "Father" Ashton, as he was now familiarly called, became well and widely known. He was a keen, incisive, vigorous, and always courageous writer. A "free-soiler" in his early manhood, he naturally voted for John C. Fremont for President in 1856, and upon the organization of the republican party became one of its active members. His county supported him for senator in 1895, in a three-cornered fight between Dallas, Guthrie and Audubon counties, but the choice fell to an opponent. "Father" Ashton was public spirited and enterprising to a degree equalled by few men of the region in which he lived. When he settled at Guthrie Center in 1878, he saw at once how necessary it was to have a railroad connection with the outside world. He was instrumental in projecting a road to Menlo, a town on the Rock Island line, and a company was organized of which he became the active, energetic and successful president. The road was built and is now a part of the Rock Island system. He was also one of the Iowa Commissioners to the great Columbian Exposition at Chicago, of which he was one of the most useful working members. He compiled the "Hand Book of Iowa," of which 25,000 copies were published, and was chairman of the committee on history, archaeology and statistics. His days were full of Christian work and genuine usefulness.

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