

NOTABLE DEATHS.

CHARLES BEARDSLEY was born on a farm in Knox county, Ohio, seven miles from Mt. Vernon, February 18, 1830. His father came there in 1818, walking the whole distance from Stratford, Connecticut, whither his earliest ancestor in America had come from Stratford-on-Avon, nineteen years after the death of "the Bard of Avon." His mother was Mary Fitch of New Haven, Connecticut. The third of six children, he learnt carpentry, studied in Granville Academy, and in the Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, and graduated at the Ohio Medical college in Cincinnati. At the age of 25 he came to Muscatine, Iowa, practiced medicine there a few months, and at Oskaloosa until 1861, meanwhile becoming editor of *The Oskaloosa Herald*. President Lincoln appointed him postmaster at Oskaloosa. Removing to Burlington in 1865, he was editor of *The Hawk-Eye* for ten years, and Senator from Des Moines county in the 13th and 14th General Assemblies (1870-'73), and twenty years afterward wrote a graphic and instructive history of the measures and public men of those Assemblies, published in the Pioneer Law Makers Reunion of 1894, pp. 78-100. In 1874 he traveled in Europe with the late Robert G. Saunderson; was Fourth Auditor in the Treasury Department at Washington, 1879-1885, and for three years afterward rendered efficient service to the Republican party as chairman of the State Central Committee. An ardent student of moral, social and political questions, he held a vigorous pen and was straightforward and pronounced in his convictions. With a genial nature he possessed a fine presence that represented the strength and benignity of his character. An indefatigable worker in the Christian cause and a strong pillar in the church, he was a firm supporter of advancing knowledge, of a higher appreciation of Christianity, and of a better application of its principles to the present world. He was a member of the council called by Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, with reference to its pastor, Henry Ward Beecher, in 1876, moderator of the General Congregational Association of Iowa in 1891, and a corporate member of the American Board of Foreign Missions. His last public service was as chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for Old Settlers' Day at the celebration of the Semi-Centennial of the State. Animated by a surpassing zeal to honor the Commonwealth and its founders, he made extraordinary exertions to bring together the pioneers of fifty and sixty years ago, and obtain their testimony as to the beginnings of Iowa. He entertained at his own home the venerable Judge Murdock, the only one of the seven then surviving members of the Legislative Assemblies of the Territory who was present at the celebration; and now both host and guest have passed within the veil. Dr. Beardsley's exertions made the occasion a more memorable one than can occur again. It was the last great public gathering which Iowa can ever enjoy with a goodly number present whose lives were coeval with the beginnings of the State. In his supreme ardor for the work Dr. Beardsley went beyond his strength, and soon suffered a nervous exhaustion from which he did not rally. He died December 29, 1896, at his home in Burlington, aged 66 years, 10 months, 11 days, leaving the memory of a life ennobled by high qualities, by dignity of character, by shining personal worth, and by generous devotion to his country and to mankind.

w. s.

DAVID NORRIS, one of the oldest men in the State, died at the home of his daughter in Des Moines, February 20, 1897, aged ninety-five years and six months. In the death of "Uncle Davy," as he was familiarly known, Polk county loses its oldest living settler, a man who was identified with the history of the State for more than half a century. Mr. Norris was a native of Maryland, born near Fredericktown, in 1801, of Scotch and German parentage. In 1845 he removed with his family to the far and then unset-

led west, the journey across the Mississippi being made in wagons. He settled in Polk county, on the land now known as the poor farm. In 1855 he removed to Des Moines, occupying various positions of trust in those early days. He served as bailiff in the County Court for twelve years, in the United States Court for twenty-one years, and was for a long time bailiff of the State Supreme Court. He was also, at one time, elected Justice of the Peace. He was engaged for the greater part of his life in farming and was recognized as an authority on matters pertaining to agriculture. He was a man of simple habits and unostentatious life, but possessed of the most sterling qualities of character as accorded with his Scotch ancestry, while his kindly nature and genial disposition won the affection of all who knew him. Mr. Norris was possessed of an unusual memory, retentive and accurate, extending back for over eighty years; and having witnessed the drama of our early history for so long a period one found in him a storehouse of most valuable information. It was a delight to him to talk of early days and to narrate anecdotes and incidents relating to the general history of our country, and particularly of pioneer and territorial days in Iowa. He served as teamster in the war of 1812; saw President Madison fleeing from Washington when that city was in flames, and formed part of his escort in that trying time. He was present when the people of Fredericktown received Gen. Lafayette in 1826 and also saw Gen. Jackson on numerous occasions. When he came to Iowa troops were stationed at the fort near the intersection of the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers, to prevent trouble with the Indians. He was well acquainted with the old Indian chiefs Keokuk and Johnny Green. Mr. Norris' daughter was the first white woman married in Polk county. At the time of his death the living representatives of his family numbered five generations.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL AND BREVET MAJOR-GENERAL A. J. SMITH died at St. Louis on January 30, 1897. He was born in Buck's county, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1815. Both his grandfather and father were distinguished soldiers, the first in the Revolutionary war under General Washington, and the latter in the war of 1812. A. J. Smith graduated at West Point in 1838, and his record fills nearly two pages of Gen. Cullum's "Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U. S. Military Academy." He fought in the Mexican and Indian wars and had made a very excellent record at the outbreak of the Rebellion. On the Red river expedition—having risen to the command of a Division—there were three Iowa regiments in his command, viz: the 14th, 27th and 32nd Infantry. He took a prominent part in the expedition, but was in no sense responsible for the disastrous results which attended it. General Banks, in fact, gave him credit for saving his army at the terrible battle of Pleasant Hill, of which Mr. A. J. Barkley has written so entertainingly in this number of THE ANNALS. He was idolized by his soldiers, who had the fullest confidence in him. He instilled so much of his dare-devil spirit into his men—and possibly was not too particular about certain little peccadillos in camp life—that they came to be characterized as "Smith's guerrillas." This designation seemed rather to flatter the old man's vanity. Some of our Iowa regiments were in his command at the battle of Nashville and were posted upon the inside of a breastwork or fortification, when General Thomas rode along. He inquired, "General Smith, will your men stand behind that work?" "Can't tell you anything about it!" But by Blank they'll stand if you put 'em outside of it!" General Thomas was entirely satisfied with "Smith's guerrillas," and rode on. General Smith continued in the service, participating in many battles, until the close of the war, and was afterwards appointed postmaster of St. Louis by General Grant, holding the office several years. This necessitated his resignation, but at the expiration of his civil service Congress placed him upon the retired list of the regular army with the

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