

NOTABLE DEATHS.

J. K. GRAVES was born in Keene, N. H., September 29, 1837; he died in Dubuque, Iowa, December 9, 1898. Mr. Graves received only the education afforded by the common schools of his native place and came west to seek his fortune at the early age of seventeen. He reached Dubuque in 1854 and the next year secured the position of cashier in the old banking house of which Major M. Mobley was the head. This firm was succeeded by that of J. K. Graves & Co. in 1858, when Mr. Graves had barely attained the age of twenty-one. But he had already taken rank as one of the foremost business men of that flourishing city. His banking house was afterwards merged into a branch of the old State Bank of Iowa, Mr. Graves becoming vice-president and general manager. He was connected with many leading business interests, as journalism, city gas works, mining and railroad building, aside from banking. Hon. W. W. Hamilton (President of the Iowa Senate in 1856, before the new constitution provided for the election of a Lieutenant-Governor) in the year 1864 admirably expressed to the writer of these lines his opinion of J. K. Graves as a successful business man: "Why," said he, "that young man will yet own the whole city of Dubuque!" For a time everything with which he was connected seemed to prosper, but eventually he met with his full share of losses and disappointments. At the outbreak of the rebellion he telegraphed Governor Kirkwood to draw on him for \$30,000, and this money was used to fit out our Iowa soldiers. When Dubuque entered upon the work of building a railroad to Sioux City, the most important factor in that great enterprise was J. K. Graves, who could raise money when others could not. He was a radical Republican, but was elected Mayor of Dubuque, and to a four years term in the State Senate, overcoming by his enthusiasm and hard work an adverse majority of 3,000. Aside from his high character as a business man he was not only always benevolent and charitable, but one of the staunchest and most steadfast and reliable friends. General George W. Jones in his old age had lost his home through the foreclosure of a mortgage, and time had slipped away until the equity of redemption would expire in a day or two. The aged statesman had quite abandoned hope, and in the deepest despair was expecting to be dispossessed of his home at once. Learning this state of things, Mr. Graves instantly set to work to raise money to redeem the property. He was successful, through his personal appeals, restoring to the veteran Senator the title to his home, and raising money sufficient to make him comfortable during his remaining days. That was but a characteristic incident in the life of J. K. Graves. Not only "a whole city full" mourned its irreparable loss in his death, but expressions of regret and sympathy appeared in the public press throughout the State.

J. FRED MEYERS was born at Oettingen, Bavaria, Germany, in 1833; he died at Denison, Iowa, May 1, 1898. His parents emigrated to America when he was fourteen years old and settled at Adrian, Michigan, where he learned the printing business. His first newspaper venture was at Columbus, Indiana, where he edited and published *The Independent*. He was a prominent anti-slavery man from the beginning. In 1857 he became connected with the *The Free Democrat* at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which was conducted by S. M. Booth. Subsequently he published *The Independent* at Germantown, Ohio. In 1861 he was made Chief of the Printing Division of the Treasury Department at Washington, under Secretary Chase. He retained this position until 1874. From 1869 to 1871 he edited and published *The Civil Service Journal*, at Washington, D. C., and was also the chief editor of *The Republic*, a political magazine published under the di-

rection of the National Republican Congressional Committee. He was twice sent to Germany by the Treasury Department to make especial investigations in regard to the manner in which immigrants were treated in their transit to this country. President Grant transmitted his report to Congress, calling especial attention to its recommendations. During his busy life at Washington he studied law and graduated from the Columbia Law School. In 1874 he resigned his position in Washington and settled in Denison, Iowa, which was thereafter his home. Purchasing *The Denison Review* he soon made it one of the ablest weekly newspapers in the State. He was appointed Postmaster by President Hayes, holding the position from 1877 to 1886. In 1889 President Harrison appointed him Chief of Division in the Sixth Auditor's office of the Treasury Department. In 1891 the Bureau of Labor at Washington sent him to Germany to report on the Industrial School System of that country. Mr. Meyers was a man of wide information, of the highest personal character, independent and able in defense of what he believed to be right, a radical and a leader in the councils of his party, and a distinct force in the field of Iowa journalism.

COLONEL GEORGE E. WARING, JR., was born at Poundridge, New York, July 4, 1833; he died in New York City, October 29, 1898. While not an Iowa man, Colonel Waring was in some respects quite closely identified with Iowa interests. In the summer of 1863 two Iowa regiments—the Fourteenth and Thirty-second—were under his command at Columbus, Kentucky, where he formed friendships which only ended with his life. His profession was that of an agricultural and sanitary engineer, in which field of usefulness he left no equal on either side of the Atlantic. He made Memphis, Tennessee, after it was decimated by yellow fever, one of the healthiest cities in the Union; and he had given to the flourishing little city of Boone, Iowa, a system of sanitary drainage which is rapidly banishing from its limits typhoid fever and other zymotic diseases. Other Iowa towns were looking ahead to secure his services. He was the protegee of Horace Greeley, a student under the illustrious Professor Mapes, a well known and able writer, not alone in the line of his profession, but in magazine and war literature. His thrilling, often pathetic, sketches of the sagacious horses which he rode at the head of his regiment will "cause the eye to flow" even now. He was a man of the world in the highest and best sense—a friend who never neglected or forgot an early friend. How he cleaned the streets of New York City is yet fresh in the general memory. President McKinley sent him to Cuba last October to learn whether contagious and fatal diseases might not be banished from those fair regions. But during his investigations he contracted yellow fever from which he died a few days after reaching home. Colonel Waring and his friends throughout the Union believed that his mission was to be crowned with entire success, and that result would have enshrined him as one of the illustrious benefactors of mankind. But he was thus cut off in the midst of his usefulness, at the threshold of a great career, and no one has appeared to take his place.

MRS. NANCY M. HAMILL was born at Mt. Jackson, Pennsylvania, September 15, 1816; she died at Keokuk, Iowa, October 16, 1898. She was a daughter of a soldier of the war of 1812, and her grandfather, Captain William Young, was a soldier of the Revolution. She was married to the late Hon. Smith Hamill January 30, 1838. Her husband was a member of the first Legislature which met in Iowa, and they were on intimate terms with the officials of those days. In an interview published a year ago in *The Constitution-Democrat* Mrs. Hamill said: "In 1833 missionaries were sent out here—Presbyterian missionaries—to work among the Indians. Jefferson Davis told me this when I was South in 1878, and said he saw

them here. The first Methodist minister was Mr. Dennis, who was lodged with us. The first ministers of the Presbyterian, Methodist and United Presbyterian churches lodged with us. The first Presbyterian to preach here was named Cummins, I think, but the church was not organized then. The first United Presbyterian minister here was Dr. John Scott. The first United Presbyterian church was organized three miles out in Henderson's house, near us, when sixteen members took communion and elders were ordained. This was the first Protestant communion in Lee county, I am sure. It was in September, 1846. The bell in the present United Presbyterian church was the first church bell to ring in Iowa. I heard it ring first one beautiful Sabbath morning. It was on a little frame building belonging to the Westminster Church, on Fifth street, where McCrary and Craig's offices are now. The United Presbyterian congregation bought the building and bell later."

ALBERT R. ANDERSON was born in Adams county, Ohio, November 8, 1837; he died at Hot Springs, South Dakota, November 17, 1898. Up to the time of his removing from Iowa Maj. Anderson was one of the best known citizens of the State. He settled in Taylor county in 1857, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar. Removing to Clarinda, Page county, he was, in 1861, appointed postmaster, but resigned that office and enlisted in Company K, Fourth Iowa Infantry. He took part in the battle of Pea Ridge and was promoted to first lieutenant immediately afterwards. During the siege of Vicksburg he was again promoted to the captaincy of his company, serving as assistant adjutant general during the Atlanta campaign. He was commissioned major of his regiment before the close of the war. He was wounded at Jonesboro, August 31, 1864, and again at Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19, 1865. Returning home in 1865, he settled in Sidney, Fremont county, where he soon after became assessor of internal revenue. He also served as State railroad commissioner, and was elected to the fiftieth congress as an Independent Republican. His death occurred from blood poisoning, from which he had been suffering for some time. Maj. Anderson was a genial, pleasant gentleman, a widely known politician, and a soldier whose honorable promotion came from merit alone.

LYMAN COOK was born in Bennington, Ohio, June 6, 1820; he died at Burlington, Iowa, October 1, 1898. Mr. Cook was one of the most prominent business men in Southeastern Iowa for fifty-eight years. He was largely engaged in banking and railroading. He was an alderman of the city of Burlington in 1846-50, mayor of that city in 1851, '52 and '53, and was twice elected to this last office without opposition. He also served four years as senator in the sixth and seventh general assemblies. During the war for the Union he was active in the care of the soldiers rendezvoused in Burlington and was commissioned commissary by Governor Kirkwood. *The Burlington Hawk-Eye* said of Mr. Cook: "He had practically no enemies. He was the embodiment of strict honesty and made a noble record of personal integrity and fidelity to fiduciary interests. He guarded the interests of his clients and patrons as if they were his own. His name was a local synonym of financial honor and strength, assuring the bank with which he was so long connected as its chief, of the unshaken and unbreakable confidence of the community." *The Leader* of Des Moines said of him that "he had taken no illegitimate toll from the millions he had handled for other people."

MRS. LUCY ALEXANDER, a colored woman, died at Keokuk, Iowa, November 14, 1898. In the account of her life and death given by *The Dawnport Democrat* of November 20, it was stated that she was 127 years of

age. Had she lived until the 24th of December she would have seen her 128th birthday. She was born a slave near Richmond, Prince Edward county, Virginia, and was owned by one Richard Miller, a corn and wheat planter. When Mr. Miller died he bequeathed her to his wife, Mrs. Becky Miller, who emigrated to Kentucky, taking her slaves with her. Mrs. Miller married a man by the name of Bard White, from whom she afterwards separated. Mrs. Alexander was bought by the husband of Mrs. Miller's daughter, a rich and aristocratic southern planter by the name of Miller Alexander. The subject of this notice married another slave by the name of Robert Alexander. After many vicissitudes she came to Keokuk, where she found a daughter from whom she had been long separated and with whom she spent her remaining days. The papers of Keokuk paid fine tributes to the memory of this remarkable woman, who was highly esteemed by all who knew her.

HON. FRANCIS SPRINGER, President of the Iowa Constitutional Convention of 1857, died at his residence, at Columbus Junction, Louisa county, October 2, 1898. He was born in Portland, Maine, April 15, 1811. For a full account of his life and public services the reader is referred to articles in the ANNALS, which are accompanied by two of his portraits. (See Vol. II, pp. 569-585; Vol. III, pp. 32-46). Forty years ago Judge Springer was one of the most prominent and highly esteemed men in this State. He retained the affectionate regard of all who knew him throughout his long and useful life. Chief Justice George G. Wright, around whose honored name cluster so many pleasant memories, spoke of him as "one of the best nisi prius judges" he had ever known. His associates in the Constitutional Convention of 1857 were unanimous in their estimate of his fairness, impartiality and unflinching courtesy. He was certainly "a grand old man." His death severs one of the few remaining links connecting the present with the far past of Iowa.

LEVI S. GATES was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, May 23, 1838; he died at Omaha, Nebraska, October 11, 1898. Mr. Gates had resided near Manchester, Iowa, during the last forty years, and had become one of the best known and most prominent dairymen in the State. He was appointed State Dairy Commissioner by Gov. L. M. Shaw at the expiration of the term of Hon. W. K. Boardman. Mr. Gates was a member of the house during the session of the Twenty-first General Assembly, where he had charge of the bill for the act creating the office of State Dairy Commissioner. He was also largely instrumental in the formation of the State Dairy Association, in 1875, and was quite prominent in all matters connected with the agricultural interests of our State. He had gone to Omaha to attend the session of the National Dairy Association on the Exposition grounds, and while addressing that body dropped dead from apoplexy.

FRANK M. GOODYKOONTZ was born at Anderson, Indiana, April 16, 1842; he died at Mitchell, South Dakota, November 24, 1898. His parents settled at Waukon, Iowa, about the year 1856. He attended only the common schools and was to a great extent a self-educated man. He was admitted to the bar at Waukon at the age of twenty-one, and practiced at that place and also at Le Roy, Minnesota, Postville, Lime Springs and Mason City. At the latter place he resided several years and became widely known throughout Iowa as an eloquent pleader and most successful lawyer. He was elected to our State senate in 1880 for four years, and at the close of his first session resigned and settled in Chamberlain, South Dakota. He later on moved to Mitchell, where he spent the remainder of his life. He attained a high position and much influence in his new home and came very near an election as U. S. senator in 1897.

GEORGE R. WILLETT was born at Lacadie, Province of Quebec, Canada, Nov. 11, 1826; he died at Decorah, Iowa, Nov. 12, 1898. Mr. Willett grew up in the woolen manufacturing business in Canada, entering into co-partnership with his brother, Thomas, on the death of their father. Owing to unusually heavy importations of woolen goods from England prices declined and they were financially ruined. He came to the United States and studied law, graduated at the Albany, N. Y. Law School, and settled in Decorah in 1857, where he became the partner of the late Judge E. E. Cooley. At the outbreak of the rebellion he entered the service as Capt. of Co. D, 3d Iowa Infantry, and was disabled by a wound in the knee at the battle of Blue Mills, Mo. Returning home he was chosen to several public offices of honor and trust, especially distinguishing himself as State Senator from 1871 to 1875. He bore a most prominent part in the railroad legislation of that day.

CHARLES ASHMEAD SCHAEFFER was born in 1843; he died at Iowa City, September 23, 1898. The deceased was the distinguished president of the Iowa State University, which position he had occupied since August 31, 1887. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and also attended Harvard and Union Colleges, the University of Gottingen, Germany, and the School of Mines, Berlin, and was for several years professor of mineralogy in Cornell College, at Ithaca, New York. His administration of the affairs of the University had been marked with distinguished success, and he had become widely known as an educator throughout this State and the middle west. It is probable that some elaborate biography of President Schaeffer will be published hereafter.

HENRY ARTEMAS GILMAN was born January 15, 1845, at Gilmanton, New Hampshire; he died at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, October 9, 1898. He graduated in medicine from Dartmouth in 1876, and afterwards settled in Jacksonville, Illinois, where he remained until he was appointed superintendent of the Mt. Pleasant Hospital for the Insane. His administration of that most responsible and difficult trust was attended with distinguished success, and he had won the highest credit both at home and abroad. At the time of his death he held the position of vice-president of the National Association of Asylum Superintendents. He was the author of many scientific papers which had attracted wide attention.

ROBERT STRUTHURS was born in Scotland, December 26, 1829; he died at Rolfe, Iowa, September 18, 1898. He was brought to this country by his parents at the age of three years. The family settled at Quebec, Canada, where he grew to manhood. He settled in Fort Dodge, Iowa, in 1857, but soon after went to Pocahontas county where he spent the remainder of his life. He was the pioneer justice of the peace in his county and later treasurer and recorder, county surveyor, and in 1871 a member of the legislature, where he served as a representative. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, a prominent member of its councils, and also an Odd Fellow and Mason.

W. H. DICKINSON, M. D., was born near Quebec, Canada, September 19, 1828; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, October 26, 1898. He was one of the prominent physicians of the capital city and a medical writer of considerable note. He settled in Des Moines in March, 1858, and lived there continuously until the day of his death. He was appointed by Gov. Gear a member of the State Board of Health and continued in that office by Gov. Sherman. When Gov. Boies came in he appointed Mr. Dickinson to fill a

vacancy on the same Board. He was not only a pioneer settler, but one of the pioneers of homeopathy in Iowa and always enjoyed a lucrative practice.

Mrs. LUCY FAIRCHILD HOTCHKISS was born at Binghamton, New York, September 15, 1843; she died at her home at Adel, Iowa, October 16, 1898. She was the wife of Hon. A. C. Hotchkiss, State senator in the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies and editor of *The Adel News*. They were married in 1867, soon after which event they came to Iowa and settled in Adel where they afterward resided. Mrs. Hotchkiss had been for thirty years an earnest, active member of the Presbyterian church, and was distinguished for her charitable and missionary labors. She had a wide acquaintance in Iowa.

Mrs. ULIS BRIGGS (ELLEN BROWN) was born in Derbyshire, England, November 25, 1818; she died in Webster City, Iowa, December 3, 1898. She came to this country shortly after her marriage, in 1845. The family settled first in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they resided several years. In 1857 they removed to Webster City, near which place they afterward resided. Mr. Briggs died in 1880. "Mrs. Briggs," says *The Webster City Freeman*, of December 7, "was a woman of marked intelligence and intellectual strength, . . . widely known and greatly esteemed, especially by the early settlers of Hamilton county."

Mrs. CAROLINE FENIMORE LEWIS was born in the city of Philadelphia, October 10, 1810; she died at Dubuque, Iowa, October 16, 1898. She was the widow of Gen. Warner Lewis, one of the most conspicuous figures in the early history of Dubuque and of that portion of the State. He was surveyor-general and register of the public land office under President Polk and had held several other less important positions. Mrs. Lewis is said to have been the oldest member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Iowa. Her membership in the congregation dated from the days of the old log church in 1836.

ROBERT J. SHANNON died at his residence in Boone, Iowa, November 11, 1898, after a protracted illness. He was one of the early settlers of the county and had been a soldier in the Mexican War and again in the War of the Rebellion. He was second lieutenant of Company D in the Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, and participated in the battle of Pleasant Hill. His funeral was attended and his memory honored by the surviving members of his old company who still largely reside in the vicinity of his residence.

GEN. JAMES C. PARROTT was born at Easton, Maryland, May 21, 1811; he died at Keokuk, May 17, 1898. For full particulars of the long and useful life of this gallant Iowa soldier the reader is referred to an article by Miss Mary R. Whitcomb which appeared in this publication, Vol. III, pp. 364-383.

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