

## NOTABLE DEATHS.

PETER ANTHONY DEY was born at Romulus, Seneca county, New York, January 27, 1825; he died at Iowa City, Iowa, July 12, 1911. His father, Dr. Philip Dey, was a son of Theunis Dey, Colonel of a New Jersey regiment in the Revolutionary war. Mr. Dey attended Seneca Falls Academy until 1840, when he entered Geneva (now Hobart) college at Geneva, New York, graduating in 1844. He studied law in the office of D. C. Bloomer until 1846. In 1853 he removed to Iowa City, Iowa, where he made his home the remainder of his life. Mr. Dey began his activities as an engineer and constructor of transportation systems at the age of twenty-one. His first employment was in surveying parts of the Erie railroad. In 1849 he constructed a portion of the Cayuga and Seneca canal, and assisted in the laying out and in the construction of the route of the Michigan Southern railway. He had charge of a division of the construction of the Chicago and Rock Island road in Illinois. Mr. Dey surveyed the route for and constructed a part of the work on the Mississippi and Missouri railroad, now the main line of the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific railroad from Iowa City to Council Bluffs. In 1862 he explored for Thomas C. Durant, the country west of the Missouri river, with a view to locating a railroad, and from this investigation came the location of the first railroad across the continent. He was made chief engineer of the Union Pacific railroad company and continued in that capacity during the period of locating the eastern terminal of the track. When General Grenville M. Dodge became chief engineer in 1865, Mr. Dey retired from railroad interests and entered the banking business at Iowa City. Mr. Dey was made a capitol commissioner by Chapter 35, Acts of the 14th General Assembly, approved April 10, 1872, amending Chapter 110, Acts of the 13th General Assembly, approved April 13, 1870, which first provided for a Board of Commissioners for the erection of the new capitol. With Mr. Dey were named, in addition to the Governor of the State, John G. Foote, Maturin L. Fisher, and R. S. Finkbine. Mr. Dey, in his account of R. S. Finkbine, in the ANNALS OF IOWA, third series, v. 5, no. 3, wrote of the services of this commission. He very characteristically extolled the others and kept silence as to himself. He gives as among the last expressions of Mr. Foote, the following: "I shall die happy in the thought that the building of the Capitol was an honest and wise expenditure of public money and that ours was a trust faithfully carried out." After paying tribute to each of his fellow commissioners' qualities and individual success and omitting mention of his own, he suggests, "\* \* \* there is no association of my entire life that I look back to with more satisfaction." But those of whom he spoke, and all men of that generation, attributed to Mr. Dey the fullest measure of credit for the erection, without a flaw or fault in the discharge of duty of the Board, of the largest structure under the largest expenditure up to that time contemplated in the West. What Mr. Dey said of Mr. Finkbine is true

of himself: "\* \* \* his name is thoroughly associated in the popular mind with the building of the capitol. For the present generation it is his memorial." In 1879 Mr. Dey was appointed railroad commissioner by Governor Gear, and successively reappointed by Governors Sherman and Larrabee. The office became elective in 1889. The members elected were Mr. Dey, Spencer Smith of Pottawattamie county, and Frank T. Campbell of Jasper county. Upon drawing lots, the two year term fell to Mr. Dey. At its end, in 1892, he was re-elected, although he was a Democrat, and the Republican presidential candidate carried the State by 50,000. Mr. Dey was an invaluable member of the Iowa State Historical Society at Iowa City and for twelve years served as its president.

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FATHER WINFRED SCHMIDT was born in Siedlinghausen, Westphalia, Germany, March 31, 1851; he died in Des Moines, July 16, 1911. Educated in parochial schools and Paderborn university, from which he graduated in 1871, he emigrated to America in the same year and engaged for six years as a teacher in St. Vincent's college, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. He was then called to the chair of the theology and philosophy in the Benedictine college at Atchison, Kansas. In 1883 he became rector of St. Mary's church in Des Moines, which had then been but recently transferred from the bishop's charge to that of the Benedictine fathers. His work in the congregation was most faithful and effective the remainder of his life. As a scientist Father Schmidt was widely known. His collection of botanical and entomological specimens and literature was very extensive and valuable. Some years ago he presented this collection to St. Benedict college. His body was interred in the abbey of the Benedictine fathers at Atchison.

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CHARLES F. SAYLOR was born in Polk county, Iowa, on September 8, 1857; he died at Des Moines, Iowa, April 20, 1911. The parents of Mr. Saylor, who survive him, were among the earliest settlers of Polk county, their homestead being on Saylor prairie above Des Moines. He was educated in the public schools of the city of Des Moines and was a graduate of the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames. He was a teacher in the Polk county and Des Moines public schools for a number of years and was elected county superintendent of public schools for Polk county, serving six years. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Agricultural college at Ames for a number of years. During this time Hon. James Wilson, now Secretary of Agriculture, was a member of the faculty. Immediately after President McKinley called Professor Wilson to be head of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Saylor was made a special agent of the Department. He was assigned the duty of special investigation and report upon the sugar industry, and for more than ten years assiduously devoted his time and talent to the consideration of this great subject. His travels and investigations embraced every State in the Union in which the culture or manufacture of beet sugar or cane sugar is a factor. He visited the Sandwich Islands, Porto Rico and Cuba, where sugar production and commerce are a factor in the American trade. He collected exhaustive information from all States and colonies of other govern-

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