

NOTABLE DEATHS

W. J. MOIR was born in Scotland, October 19, 1824, and died at Eldora, Iowa, October 14, 1918. He migrated with his parents to Canada in 1836 and came to the United States in 1843. He attended Derby Academy in Vermont for a time. He was naturalized at Plymouth, Indiana, in 1854 and then entered on the study of law. In 1856 he came to Eldora, Iowa, where he lived until his death. For years he was a law partner of John Porter, who became circuit judge. In 1861 he was elected representative and was re-elected two years later, serving in the Ninth and Tenth general assemblies. Among the bills he introduced was one penalizing those who should set out prairie or timber fires, and allow them to get beyond their control, which became a law. When the General Assembly provided for the establishment of the Iowa Reform School, it selected Mr. Moir as one of the trustees and he assisted in starting the institution, according to the direction of the General Assembly, on the property of "White's Iowa Manual Labor Institute," located in the northwest part of Lee County, six miles south of Salem. As a trustee he also assisted in selecting the permanent location of the school at Eldora in 1872. With the exception of about three years he acted as a trustee of the institution from 1868 to 1898, and was its treasurer from 1878 to 1898, when it came under the direction of the Board of Control. He also served as mayor of Eldora, as a member of the board of supervisors of Hardin County, and as president of Hardin County Agricultural Society. For half a century he was treasurer of the Odd Fellows' lodge of Eldora.

WILLIAM SAVAGE PITTS was born in Orleans County, New York, August 18, 1830, and died in Brooklyn, New York, September 26, 1918. Burial was at Fredericksburg, Iowa. He attended common school and at an early age began the study of music. He removed to Wisconsin in 1849 and in 1852 commenced teaching music at Union, Wisconsin. He followed that vocation several years, teaching singing schools and brass bands, and composing much of the music for the bands. He came to Fredericksburg, Iowa, in 1862, and not long thereafter entered Rush Medical College, Chicago. It was while there that having the need of more money to keep up his college expenses he offered to the music publisher, H. M. Higgins, a few songs he had written some years before. From among them Mr. Higgins selected "The Little Brown Church in the Vale," giving him twenty-five dollars for it. This song relates to a little brown church at the old town of Bradford, near Nashua. The song became immensely popular and has become known

all over the world. Mr. Pitts was graduated from Rush Medical College in 1868. From then until 1906 he practiced medicine at Fredericksburg. He was thoroughly identified with the community as town and country doctor, leader of the church choir, treasurer of the school board for twenty-five years, and mayor of Fredericksburg for seven years. In 1906 he removed to Clarion and in 1909 to Brooklyn, New York, spending his last days there with a son.

GEORGE RIX STRUBLE was born in Sussex County, New Jersey, July 25, 1836, and died at Toledo, Iowa, December 15, 1918. When he was a child his parents removed to Virginia, and later to Ohio, and in 1856 they came to Toledo, Iowa. Here he a little later began the study of law and in 1860 was admitted to the bar and began practice. From 1860 to 1864 he had as partner Albert Stoddard. After that he had at different times partnerships with Isaac N. Allen, who was attorney-general of Iowa in 1865, C. B. Bradshaw, C. N. Goodrich, and L. G. Kinney. Then in 1881 the firm became Struble & Stiger, which continued until within a few years of his death. In 1870 Governor Merrill appointed him circuit judge and he served two years. In 1879 he was elected representative and was re-elected two years later, serving in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth general assemblies, being speaker in the Nineteenth, elected after a notable contest. In 1890 he was the Republican candidate for Congress in the Fifth District, but went down to defeat in the landslide. In 1896 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at St. Louis that nominated McKinley.

EDGAR EUGENE MACK was born at Leicester, Vermont, June 14, 1850, and was killed in an automobile accident at Addison, Pennsylvania, July 30, 1918. Burial was at Storm Lake, Iowa. In 1861 he was brought by his parents in their removal to Lake County, Illinois, in 1863 to Alden, Iowa, and in 1870 to Buena Vista County, where the father homesteaded land. In 1874 the young man was elected county clerk and by reason of re-elections he served in that capacity fourteen years. When he was first elected the county seat was at Sioux Rapids, but in 1874 it was removed to Storm Lake. On retiring from the office of county clerk he entered real estate business. In 1890 he formed a partnership with James De Land in the law, abstract, and loan business which continued to 1907 when he formed a partnership with his son, Guy E. Mack. In 1889 he was elected senator and served in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth general assemblies. He was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee in 1890 and 1891.

RODERICK A. SMITH was born in Wyoming County, New York, October 12, 1829, and died at Okoboji, Iowa, September 18, 1918. He came into Iowa in 1856, stopping at Fort Dodge. In 1857 he joined the relief expedition to Spirit Lake, called there because of the massacre by

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