

## NOTABLE DEATHS

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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.

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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

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