

## NOTABLE DEATHS

---

JAMES MELVILLE PIERCE was born in Richland County, Ohio, May 9, 1848, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, November 1, 1920. When a boy he was employed as a printer's apprentice in the office of the *Shield and Banner*, Mansfield, Ohio. He was a member of Company B, Forty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In 1867 he removed to northwestern Missouri and engaged in farming. In 1870 he became publisher and editor of the *Grant City Star*, and in 1875 of the *Hopkins Journal*, both in northwest Missouri. In 1878 he added the *Taylor County Republican*, of Bedford, Iowa, to the string of papers he owned, and in 1884, the *Osceola Sentinel*. In 1885 he acquired an interest in the *Iowa Homestead*, at Des Moines, and removed to that city. At that time Henry Wallace was the editor of the *Homestead* and, through the efforts of the two, the journal prospered and became an agricultural and political factor in the state. On Mr. Wallace's retirement from the *Homestead* in 1895, Mr. Pierce became sole owner. In 1893 he acquired the *Wisconsin Farmer*, Madison, Wisconsin, and the *Farmer and Stockman*, Kansas City, Missouri. All of these he continued to publish, retaining active control up to the time of his death. The last ten years of his life he increased his activity in politics. He never was a candidate for office, but was ardently for or against many public men, always working, as he believed, for the advancement of the agricultural interests of the state. He was independent in politics, party lines making no difference to him. In the last few months before his death he had been vigorously supporting the Democratic candidates for governor and United States senator. He had just made a strong campaign against the sale to the public of stock in questionable corporations, which was then at high tide in Iowa. He was a great business man, had vigor and courage, and exerted a large influence in public affairs.

---

WILLIAM G. CLEMENTS was born near Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, January 2, 1847, and died at Los Angeles, California, January 10, 1920. Interment was at Newton, Iowa. In October, 1855, the family removed to a farm near Monroe, Jasper County, Iowa, and three years later to the vicinity of Newton. William G. attended country school and later, College Farm, or Wittenberg College, near Newton. This he supplemented by a course at Iowa College, Grinnell, and also was graduated from the Iowa Business College at Des Moines. He then taught school a few years, served for a time as deputy county recorder, and read law under Hon. O. C. Howe. He was admitted to the bar in 1869 and in 1870 began practice at Prairie City, in partnership with Sidney Williams. He was mayor of Prairie City one year. In 1876 he

formed a partnership with B. C. Ward which lasted eighteen years. In 1887 he removed to Newton, in 1888 was elected county attorney, and was re-elected in 1890, serving four years. In 1898 he was elected one of the judges of the district court in the Sixth Judicial District, and was re-elected in 1902 and in 1906, serving twelve years. He brought to the office carefulness, ability, experience in the practice, and a high sense of duty. After his retirement in 1911 he resumed practice at Newton in partnership with his son, Frank H. Clements, which he continued until some three years before his death, when poor health caused his retirement. He had been in California about a year when the end came.

---

JOHN T. SCOTT was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, October 16, 1840, and died at Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 11, 1920. According to his request his body was cremated and the ashes are to be deposited in the family lot at Brooklyn, Iowa. In 1843 he emigrated with his parents to Terryville, now Thompsonville, Massachusetts. In 1848 they removed to Fayette County, Wisconsin, settling on a farm. John T. attended common school in winter and worked in summer. In 1861 he enlisted at Elizabeth, Illinois, in Company E, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and participated in several important battles. In the spring of 1862 he was honorably discharged, and in September of that year re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Second Illinois Infantry. In 1863 he was appointed second lieutenant in the Sixteenth United States Colored Infantry. In January, 1864, he was promoted to first lieutenant, which office he filled until honorably discharged in May, 1866. In the same year he came to Brooklyn, Iowa, worked for a time on a farm and then entered the law office of John D. Hale as a student. He was admitted to the bar at Montezuma in 1867. At Brooklyn he took an active part in public matters. He was county attorney of Poweshiek County from 1888 to 1891, and was one of the judges of the district court of the Sixth Judicial District from 1899 to 1906. On leaving the bench he occasionally assisted in the trial of important cases in his own and adjoining counties. He removed to Colorado Springs in 1909, and there lived a retired life. He was a man of ability, of rugged integrity, and was unique and original. He was sometimes blunt, but loved justice, truth and right.

---

JOHN EVERALL was born in Shropshire, England, April 20, 1839, and died at Monona, Iowa, May 17, 1920. In 1851 he came to America with his parents, who settled on a farm in Farmersburg Township, Clayton County, Iowa. This county was his place of residence for the remainder of his life. The first eleven years of his life in America were spent in attending school, farming, and teaching. In August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company E, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded in action in July, 1864. He rose from private to first

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.