

## NOTABLE DEATHS.

JUDGE GEORGE D. WAKEFIELD was born in DeWitt, Ill., Nov. 22, 1839; he died at his home in Sioux City, Iowa, March 10, 1905. Judge Wakefield was descended from New England ancestors who came to this country in pre-revolutionary days. His father was a prosperous farmer and his education, like that of country lads generally, was more or less irregular until he entered the preparatory department of Lombard University at Galesburg, Ill. Here he remained until the breaking out of the civil war, when he enlisted in July, 1861, being mustered into Co. F, 44th regiment Illinois Infantry, Aug. 7, 1861, with the rank of corporal. In October following, he was taken with a severe attack of fever and confined in a hospital. He was unable to join his regiment until February, 1862. He was in the battle of Shiloh and the siege of Corinth, and was severely wounded at Jackson, Miss., July 12, 1863. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg and frequently constituted one of the small parties of sappers and shovelers who attempted to surmount the line of intrenchment. After the war he continued his studies at Lombard University. He entered upon the study of law in the office of Hon. Henry S. Green, of Bloomington, Ill., and was admitted to the bar in 1868. Sioux City was then attracting attention, and he located there March 6, 1868, continuing to make it his home until his death. Judge Wakefield very soon attracted public attention and won favor. He was elected to the office of county auditor, which position he held for three successive terms, during all of which time he continued his study of the law. Upon his retirement from that office he entered into law practice with Judge Isaac Pendleton, which partnership continued until his elevation to the bench in 1884. Among lawyers over the State, as well as among his fellow townsmen, Judge Wakefield had an enviable reputation as a jurist. He had a high order of ability in logical analysis and marked impartiality in his judicial methods and decisions. In 1904 he was President of the State Bar Association. Besides his interest in the law, Judge Wakefield was foremost in a number of scholarly and public activities that indicated his breadth of mind and wide range of interests and studies. He was an active promoter and director of the Floyd Memorial Association, which effected the erection of the monument to Sergeant Charles Floyd of the Lewis and Clark expedition. He was also a prominent member of the Academy of Science and Letters of Sioux City, being president at the time of his death. Judge Wakefield was a very forceful personality in his community, not because of an aggressive disposition, but rather because of his modest and genial temperament, combined with distinguished ability that compelled general dependence upon his judgment. People sought him out because experience had demonstrated the value of his judgment and the sincerity of his advice.

LOT THOMAS was born Oct. 7, 1843, in Fayette county, Pa.; he died March 17, 1905, on board a train near Yuma, Arizona, enroute to Los Angeles, where he hoped to recover from ill health. Judge Thomas was reared on his father's farm in Pennsylvania. He received an ordinary common school education, working in the summer and attending school in the winter. He studied for four years in Vermillion Institute, in Hayesville, Ohio. He came to Iowa in 1868 and taught school in Warren county. In the summer of 1869 he began his legal studies. He entered the law department of the State University, where he remained two terms. Upon being admitted to the bar he located at Storm Lake, which continued to be his home, with the exception of a few years, until his death. From 1872 to 1885 Judge Thomas practiced law, devoting much time to ques-

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