

# ANNALS OF IOWA

---

---

## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

---

---

### NOTABLE DEATHS

---

HOWARD WEBSTER BYERS was born at Woodstock, Richland County, Wisconsin, December 25, 1856, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, March 24, 1928. Burial was at Harlan. His parents were Dr. Andrew Clinton and Mary Cadwallader Byers. His boyhood was spent near Hyland and Muscoda, Wisconsin. He received a common school education. The family removed to Hancock County, Iowa, in 1873, where H. W. continued in those early years of his life to be a farm laborer. In 1877 he located in Shelby County and taught school first at Shelby, then in Earling and later in Harlan. Then for five years he clerked in and conducted a general store. He read law in the office of Macy & Gammon for two years and was admitted to the practice in 1888. In 1893 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1895, serving in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth Extra general assemblies, the last being the Code revision session. He was speaker of the House in the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth Extra sessions. In 1898 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress in the Ninth District, and was within seven votes of the nomination for more than five hundred ballots, the nomination finally going to Smith McPherson. In 1899 he was again elected representative and served in the Twenty-eighth General Assembly. In 1901 he was permanent chairman of the Republican State Convention, which gave A. B. Cummins his first nomination for governor. In 1906 he was elected attorney general, and was re-elected in 1908, and served four years. In 1908 he was temporary chairman of the Republican State Convention. In 1910 he was again a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress in the Ninth District, this time under the primary law, when he lost to the incumbent, Walter I. Smith. From 1911 to 1921 he was corporation counsel for the city of Des Moines, and for two years following he was special counsel for the city in various municipal litigations. In general practice during later years he was a member of the firm of Clark, Byers & Brunk. He was an able lawyer, an orator of ability, and both in his public and private life was guided by high ideals and principles.

---

HENRY BROWN HAWLEY was born in Gainsville, Wyoming County, New York, January 30, 1856, and died in St. Petersburg, Florida, February 4, 1928. Burial was in Des Moines. His parents were David Waldo and Julia Samantha (Brown) Hawley. Besides attending com-

mon school, he was educated at Warsaw Academy, Warsaw, New York, in which institution he also taught several terms. He removed to Des Moines in 1882, as representative of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee. He organized the Bankers' Accident Insurance Company which later was merged with a Chicago concern. In 1901 he organized the Great Western Insurance Company, became its president and continued in that position until his death. He aided in organizing the Morris Plan Bank in Des Moines, and the Reinsurance Company, and was a director in the Des Moines National Bank. His unusual constructive and executive business ability made him no more noted than did his activities in charities. He became interested in this soon after reaching Des Moines. He was one of the organizers of Associated Charities in Des Moines in 1891, was a member of its Board of Directors from then until his death, was a member of the Executive Committee nearly all the time, was a close adviser of every secretary of the association, was president in 1913, and in 1921 was made a life member and honorary president. He had made a thorough study of benevolences and of foundations and by will he bequeathed almost his entire private fortune to the establishment in Des Moines of the Hawley Welfare Foundation, a trust fund to be administered through a board of directors. He was president of the State Society, Sons of the American Revolution, in 1904-05, and was a vice president of the National Society for two years. He was a cultured man, and contributed to his culture by travel, having visited most portions of this country, besides Hawaii and Europe, which he visited both before the World War and since.

---

WALTER C. RAMSAY was born in Ford County, Illinois, August 15, 1878, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, February 9, 1928. Burial was at Belmond, Iowa. His parents were James Wilson and Mary Elizabeth (Henry) Ramsay. Walter received his education in the graded schools of Paxton, Illinois, and the High School of Owatonna, Minnesota. In 1894 the family removed to Garner, Iowa, and he followed school-teaching for a few years. In 1900 he and his twin brother, Wallace R., purchased the *Iowa Valley Press* at Belmond. Walter was actively in charge of the editing of the paper from that date until he became secretary of state, except for the eight years he was postmaster. In 1914 the Ramsay Brothers took over the *Belmond Herald*, the paper becoming the *Herald-Press*, which they continued to own and publish until July, 1927. In January, 1904, Walter became assistant clerk of the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth General Assembly and served during that session. Two years later he served in the same position in the Thirty-first General Assembly until in February, 1906, when he resigned to assume the duties of postmaster at Belmond, to which position he had just been appointed. He remained postmaster until February, 1914. In April, 1914, he was elected mayor of Belmond, serving

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.