

of the regents of the State University during eighteen of the most important years of its history. Mr. Duncombe was descended from an old English family, the names of many of whose members are worthily embalmed in the famous "Dictionary of National Biography." Some of them were knighted and elected to the British Parliament. His great grandfather was a soldier of the Revolution, and his grandfather bore arms in the war of 1812. He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Carrie Perkins of Erie, Pa., who died in 1854; his second Miss Mary A. Williams, daughter of Maj. William Williams of Fort Dodge, to whom he was married in 1859. His widow, two sons and three daughters survive him.

WILLIAM MILLER BEARDSHEAR was born in Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 7, 1850; he died at the State College, at Ames, Iowa, Aug. 5, 1902. Reared on a farm, his education up to the age of fourteen was confined entirely to the district school, with private instruction at home. When he had attained this age, he enlisted in the volunteer army then engaged in the war for the preservation of the Union. Although under the legal age he had grown so large and lusty that he was accepted as a recruit. His service was in the Army of the Cumberland. Returning from the army he determined, like many another soldier boy, to acquire an education, becoming a student at Otterbein University, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1876. It was his intention to enter the ministry, and he became pastor of the United Brethren church at Arcanum, Ohio. He afterwards attended Yale Theological Seminary two years. Upon leaving the school he became pastor of the church at Dayton, Ohio, but in 1881 accepted the presidency of Western College in Toledo, Iowa. This was a formidable undertaking for a man of thirty, whose experience in educational matters had simply been that of a student, but he entered upon the task with energy and determination, succeeding admirably up to the time the college was destroyed by fire. His efforts to reestablish the school were highly successful, so that when he left in '89 it had entered upon a career of prosperity from which it has had little if any interruption since that time. He came to Des Moines the same year and accepted the superintendency of the West District city schools. During his superintendency the fine high school building of the district was erected. He was also instrumental in obtaining the national flag for every school house under his charge. In 1891 Dr. Beardshear was elected president of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames. Here, too, a great work had to be done, but Dr. Beardshear proved himself equal to every requirement, and the great school was in the full tide of prosperity at the time of his lamented death. Few indeed are the men who are so superbly equipped for such a great undertaking. Physically large, he was so likewise morally and mentally. In 1894 Dr. Beardshear was president of the Iowa State Teachers' Association. More recently he was chosen one of the directors of the National Educational Association, and last year elected to the presidency of that body. He was in Minneapolis expecting to preside at the annual meeting of the association when he was attacked by the illness which soon terminated his useful career. The remains were laid to rest in the college cemetery near those of the other great president, Dr. A. S. Welch, and Mrs. Margaret Stanton, who was long one of the college faculty. Henry Sabin, the distinguished Iowa educator, said of Dr. Beardshear: "He was more than a teacher; more than a college president; more than a successful man of affairs. His heart reached out for all beautiful things. * * * Even the dreary college catalog, usually redolent only of hard names and dry courses of study, under his touch became almost a poem; fitted for the desk of him who loves beautiful quotation, or appreciates a rare gem from the pen of a great thinker. He had the grace of the ready writer and was a power on the platform. The educational world will be lonesome without him." Dr.

Beardshear leaves a widow (Josephine Mundhenk) and five children: Hazel, Mrs. L. M. Chambers, Denver, Col.; Meta, William, Charles and Constance.

JAMES ALEXANDER WILLIAMSON was born at Columbia, Adair county, Ky., Feb. 8, 1829; he died at Jamestown, R. I., Sept. 7, 1902. He was educated at Knox college, Ill., where he was known as an industrious student and accurate scholar. He settled in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1855, entering upon the practice of the law. A leading and active democrat, who bore a prominent part in the politics of those days, he always enjoyed great personal popularity with the opposition. He was a prominent actor in the finally successful effort to remove the State capital from Iowa City to Des Moines, and it was a cherished hope of the last two years of his life to tell the story of that movement from his own standpoint in the pages of this magazine. In fact, he had set a time to come to Des Moines for the purpose of securing certain data for his article, but his failing health prevented his attempting the journey. Such a narrative from his pen would have possessed distinct historical value, for no other man has told the story as he could have done. He was commissioned first lieutenant and adjutant of the 4th Iowa Infantry, Aug. 8, 1861. The ladies of Des Moines presented him a beautiful flag when he left to join his command. His career in the army was a brilliant one. He was a favorite with such commanders as Grant, Sherman, Dodge and Logan, rising to the rank of brigadier-general. At the close of the war he received the brevet of major-general, and congress awarded him a medal for distinguished gallantry. He fought at Pea Ridge, Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Jackson, Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Ringgold, and in many lesser affairs. "Where is Jim Williamson?" asked an Iowa visitor at Sherman's camp. Just then a cannon boomed out in front. "Oh," replied the great general, pointing in the direction whence came the report, "he is pounding away at 'em as usual, over yonder." Coming home from the war he engaged in active business and public life for some years. President Grant appointed him Commissioner of the General Land Office. Afterwards he was president of the Atlantic & Pacific R. R., and was also connected with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe road for some years. He was a member of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the Army and Navy Club, and the Union League Club of New York City. His remains were brought to Washington, D. C., and interred in the Rock Creek cemetery. The honorary pall bearers were Gen. G. M. Dodge, Hon. Frank W. Palmer, Hon. M. D. O'Connell, Gen. A. E. Bates, Capt. Charles Train, Mr. Colgate Hoyt and Mr. G. N. Whitney. Gen. Williamson leaves a widow and four daughters by his first wife. They are Miss Haidee Williamson, Mrs. Commander W. B. Bailey, Mrs. George R. Stearns of Augusta, Ga., and Mrs. Roy Jones of Santa Monica, Cal. The town of Corinne, Utah, was named in honor of another daughter, Mrs. Tripp, now deceased. He was a model citizen, a brave soldier, a competent and faithful public officer, a genial, excellent gentleman. His sword, commissions, and other personal belongings are among the most valued treasures in the Historical Department at Des Moines.

MRS. CHARLOTTE R. WHITE, daughter of James and Nancy Pilkington, was born at Taunton, Mass., March 1, 1829; she died at Washington, D. C., July 16, 1902. She and Dr. Charles A. White were married at her old home on Sept. 28, 1848, and the following year they removed to Burlington, Iowa, where his home had been since his boyhood. They resided there until 1864 when they removed to Iowa City, where Dr. White began his official scientific career as state geologist of Iowa and Professor of Natural history in the Iowa State University. In 1873 he accepted a similar

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