

## NOTABLE DEATHS.

JOHN S. MURPHY was born in Schuylkill county, Pa., in 1847; he died in Dubuque, Iowa, February 10, 1902. His parents were natives of Ireland. On reaching America they resided for a time in Pennsylvania, but removed to Anamosa, Jones county, where they settled upon a farm. Their son received his education in the common schools and in learning the trade of a printer. He became an apprentice in the office of *The Dubuque Herald* in 1859. After serving his time he went to St. Louis and worked on *The Globe-Democrat* where he was soon allotted a place on the reportorial staff. After doing editorial work for some years he returned to Dubuque where he again became a type-setter, and was soon known as one of the fastest and best printers in that city. He was also again called to reportorial duties, and in 1879 became the editor of *The Daily Telegraph*. He first appeared conspicuously in politics in 1896, becoming next to W. J. Bryan the most prominent advocate of "free silver" doctrines in the Middle West. His paper was consolidated with *The Herald* in October, 1891. He had, therefore, conducted *The Telegraph-Herald* but a little over four months when his death came suddenly as he was working at his desk. This event called forth the highest tributes of respect from the press throughout the country, and none were more earnest and appreciative than those of his most pronounced political adversaries. From many columns of eulogy we select the following from the pen of Hon. Jacob Rich, a retired journalist of Dubuque: "A graduate of the public school and of the printing office, he was almost wholly self-taught, and therefore no one could fail to mark with ever-increasing admiration the growth of his mental power. His vocabulary was far in advance of many college-trained students or professors, and gave him great facility and felicity of expression. His mind was notably analytic, and in the field of polemics he was a master, rarely if ever forgetting the proper dignity and courtesy of debate. If his remedies might be wrong, he himself was never in doubt of their usefulness and efficiency. He would advocate nothing but from conscience, and never failed to at least convince you of his sincerity. In every cause he was found wonderfully fortified with fact and logic, showing the sources of his own faith, and marking him always as the trained and skilled antagonist. With it all he was broad-minded, kindly-spirited, pure-hearted. He was a veritable evangelist of labor, gauging every movement by what he believed, rightfully or mistakenly, to be for labor's weal or detriment. His industry was marvelous and his editorial life a most strenuous one. Compensation cut no figure in the performance of his duty. His own pride and the sense of his own power were the only stimulants to his intense life. His daily contribution to the columns of *The Telegraph-Herald* numbered many columns, and he rarely sought a day of rest. Doubtless out of his intenseness of effort, his strenuousness of life, it has come that in the very zenith of his strength and power he has been stricken down as from a lightning's blow. Dubuque had pride in his growth; in the recognition in the state of his mental power and manly worth. It will be many a day before the sense of his loss will cease to sadden all our hearts."

IRA COOK was born in Union, Brown county, N. Y., October 16, 1821; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, March 11, 1902. He came to Iowa with his parents in 1836, the family settling in what is now Davenport, which locality was at that time only a trading point. Soon after reaching Iowa, which was then attached to Michigan for judicial purposes, Mr. Cook's father was appointed Justice of the Peace by the governor of Michigan. When the Cook family first came west, they journeyed one hundred miles to "Olean Point" on the Allegany river, in Cattaraugus county, New

York. At that place they built cabins on a lumber raft and floated down to Pittsburg. There they took a steamboat to Cincinnati, and thence by steamboat by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Rock Island, Ill. They were two months lacking two days in making this trip. The tract of land owned by Mr. Cook's father was within the city limits of Davenport and was long ago laid out in city lots. Mr. Cook remained with his father until he had reached his 28th year, when he entered into business for himself. From 1849 to 1853 he had a large experience in surveying government lands in Iowa and Wisconsin. In this capacity he seems to have been an expert, as the lines he ran have been found in later years to be remarkably correct. He told the story of "Government surveying in early Iowa," in *THE ANNALS*, Jan., 1897, pp. 603-613. He removed to Des Moines in 1852 where he afterwards resided until his death. He engaged in the banking business, the firm being known as Cook, Sargent & Cook. It was one of the early and substantial organizations of the capital city. He retired from this firm in 1855 and engaged with Mr. C. C. Dawson in the real estate business. In 1862 and '63 he held a position in the Post Office Department at Washington. In 1872 he became a member of the Iowa Loan and Trust Company, of which he was one of the directors and vice-president, holding that office until the time of his death. He was elected mayor of Des Moines in 1861 and held the office for two terms. He is said to have been one of the most popular mayors the city ever had. He was appointed a deputy revenue collector under Horace Everett, in 1864. Aside from the above named positions, he held several of minor importance during the period of his residence in Des Moines. He was a prominent member of St. Paul's Episcopal church, in which he was an active worker. Mr. Cook published in addition to the article referred to, his "Reminiscences," covering the period of the immigration of the family to Iowa, and down to the year 1900. (*Annals of Iowa*, Oct., 1900, pp. 522-530.) He had it in view to write still further of his experiences in this state, but doubtless did not carry out his wishes in that respect. Mr. Cook was a man of the the highest personal and christian character, actively but unobtrusively charitable, respected and beloved throughout his wide acquaintance, the recipient of the unlimited confidence of all with whom he had transactions, in private or public life or in the church of which he was one of the substantial pillars. He was a pleasing and attractive writer, and his articles, which displayed great intelligence, were widely copied by the Iowa press.

FRANCIS J. HERRON was born in Pittsburg, Pa., February 17, 1837; he died in New York City, January 8, 1902. He was educated at the Western University in Pittsburg, which was then under the superintendency of Prof. J. M. Smith, his brother-in-law. He left the University at the age of sixteen, and became a clerk in a Pittsburg banking house, and later on a partner in the banking firm of Herron & Bros. He came to Iowa in 1855, settling in Dubuque where he opened a banking house. He began his military career as Captain of Co. I, 1st Iowa Infantry. He served with it until it was mustered out, participating in the memorable battle of Wilson's Creek. On his return he was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel of our 9th Iowa Infantry, of which Congressman William Vandever was the Colonel. He was wounded and taken prisoner at Pea Ridge, and promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General for his gallantry in that great battle. He was the only Iowa man who was promoted from Lt. Col. to Brig.-General. He was the leading spirit in the battle of Prairie Grove, which has been characterized as one of the most brilliant affairs in the history of the western armies. We next read of him as occupying the left of Grant's line at Vicksburg, where he rendered efficient service in the siege and capture of that stronghold. From there he went to the depart-

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