

## NOTABLE DEATHS

---

JOHN FORREST DILLON was born in Montgomery county, New York, December 25, 1831; he died in New York City, May 5, 1914. He removed with his parents to Davenport, Iowa Territory, when six years of age and attended private school in that place. When about seventeen years old he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Egbert S. Barrows of Davenport, attended one course of lectures in the Rock Island Medical School at Rock Island, the original of the Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a second course at Davenport to which the school had removed. He graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1850. After a few months' experience at Farmington, Van Buren county, he found that the practice of medicine was physically impossible for him under the conditions of those days, and took up the study of law. He was admitted to the bar of the district court in Scott county in 1852, and the same year was elected prosecuting attorney for that county. In 1858 he was elected judge of the district court for the Seventh District, served the six year term and was re-elected for a second term. The year following he was nominated by the Republican party for judge of the Supreme Court, received the election and served six years. After his re-election for a second term, but before he had qualified, he received from President Grant the appointment of U. S. circuit judge. This office he held until 1879 when he accepted the professorship of law at Columbia University, and removed to New York City, maintaining his residence and practice there until his death. He resumed private practice in 1882. His remains were interred in Oakdale Cemetery at Davenport on May 9th. He was the author of Dillon's Municipal Corporations, which is regarded as a legal classic and of numerous other books on legal subjects. A memorial to his wife, Anna Price Dillon, was published by him for distribution among her friends. He was an orator of repute and delivered many celebrated addresses and orations. A biographical sketch of Judge Dillon by Hon. Edward H. Stiles may be found in ANNALS OF IOWA, vol. IX, nos. 2 and 3.

---

GEORGE DOUGLAS PERKINS was born in Holly, Orleans county, New York, February 29, 1840; he died at Sioux City, Iowa, February 3, 1914. When he was but a small child, his father, on account of ill-health, removed his family first to Indiana and then to Milwaukee for short stays, finally settling in Baraboo, Wisconsin, where he died in 1852. Here George D. Perkins passed his boyhood, working on a farm and in his brother's printing office and helping in the support of the family as he could. He acquired a fair English education in the common schools, to which by systematic application and employment of his leisure hours he added a thorough knowledge of the principal branches taught in the academies and colleges of those days. History, particularly of his own country, logic, English literature and the practice of English idiom especially received his attention. In 1860 he removed to Cedar Falls, Iowa, where with his brother he published the *Cedar*

*Falls Gazette*. On August 12, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-first Iowa Infantry, but on account of an almost mortal illness he received honorable discharge in January, 1863. He returned to Cedar Falls and the publication of the *Gazette* until 1866, when, with his brother he went to Chicago and opened a gummed-label house, the first venture of that kind of any importance in the country. He also acted as agent of the Northwestern Associated Press which served the daily papers in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. In 1869 he disposed of his interests in Chicago and upon the advice of L. D. Ingersoll, pioneer editor of the *Muscatine Journal*, removed to Sioux City and bought the *Sioux City Journal*. His brother soon followed, and on April 19, 1870, they began the publication of a daily. As editor of the *Journal* from that date until his death, Mr. Perkins attained high rank among the leading journalists of the day. His editorials were marked by candor, fairness, probity and clear and dispassionate conclusions, but when in controversy were keen and conclusive. He insisted upon a veracious presentation of news in his paper and the separation of matters of opinion from matters of fact. Mr. Perkins was not only a great editor but a public-spirited citizen, serving his city, state and country with unflagging interest and noteworthy ability. He was state senator in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies, commissioner of immigration for Iowa from May 1, 1880, to May 1, 1882, and United States Marshal for the northern district of Iowa from 1882 to 1885. He was elected representative in the Fifty-second Congress and re-elected three times, his full term of service being from 1891 to 1899. He was delegate at large from Iowa to the Republican national conventions of 1876, 1880, 1888 and 1908.

---

CHARLES A. CLARK was born in Sangerville, Maine, January 26, 1841; he died at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, December 22, 1913. Descended from Hugh Clark, who settled at Watertown, Mass., in 1640, he was educated in the common schools of Sangerville and at Foxcroft Academy. He began teaching at the age of fifteen years continuing until the outbreak of the civil war. He was one of the first to answer President Lincoln's call and enlisted from Foxcroft in Company A, Sixth Maine Volunteer Infantry on April 24, 1861. He remained with this regiment, participating in most of the principal engagements of the army of the Potomac, until February 1, 1864, when he was honorably discharged because of wounds. In March he re-entered the service as Captain and Assistant Adjutant General for staff duty with his old commander, Colonel Burnham, and continued in this capacity until the close of the war. He was brevetted Lieutenant Colonel for bravery at Rappahannock Station, and years later was awarded a congressional medal by the War Department for bravery at Marve's Heights, Virginia, on May 4, 1863. When the war was over, Colonel Clark returned to Bangor and began the study of law. In 1866 he removed to Webster City, Iowa, as the attorney of John I. Blair, who was building what is now the Illinois Central Railway from Iowa Falls to Sioux City. Colonel Clark removed to Cedar Rapids in 1876 and established a law practice that continued and grew until his death. He was associated at various times with Judge N. M. Hubbard, C. J. Deacon and F. F. Dawley, under the firm styles of Hubbard, Clark and Deacon, later Hubbard, Clark and Dawley, the latter firm dissolving in 1886, Colonel Clark continuing the practice alone until joined by

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.