

Charles Beardsley

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NOTABLE DEATHS.

CHARLES BEARDSLEY was born on a farm in Knox county, Ohio, seven miles from Mt. Vernon, February 18, 1830. His father came there in 1818, walking the whole distance from Stratford, Connecticut, whither his earliest ancestor in America had come from Stratford-on-Avon, nineteen years after the death of "the Bard of Avon." His mother was Mary Fitch of New Haven, Connecticut. The third of six children, he learnt carpentry, studied in Granville Academy, and in the Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, and graduated at the Ohio Medical college in Cincinnati. At the age of 25 he came to Muscatine, Iowa, practiced medicine there a few months, and at Oskaloosa until 1861, meanwhile becoming editor of *The Oskaloosa Herald*. President Lincoln appointed him postmaster at Oskaloosa. Removing to Burlington in 1865, he was editor of *The Hawk-Eye* for ten years, and Senator from Des Moines county in the 13th and 14th General Assemblies (1870-73), and twenty years afterward wrote a graphic and instructive history of the measures and public men of those Assemblies, published in the Pioneer Law Makers Reunion of 1894, pp. 78-100. In 1874 he traveled in Europe with the late Robert G. Saunderson; was Fourth Auditor in the Treasury Department at Washington, 1879-1885, and for three years afterward rendered efficient service to the Republican party as chairman of the State Central Committee. An ardent student of moral, social and political questions, he held a vigorous pen and was straightforward and pronounced in his convictions. With a genial nature he possessed a fine presence that represented the strength and benignity of his character. An indefatigable worker in the Christian cause and a strong pillar in the church, he was a firm supporter of advancing knowledge, of a higher appreciation of Christianity, and of a better application of its principles to the present world. He was a member of the council called by Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, with reference to its pastor, Henry Ward Beecher, in 1876, moderator of the General Congregational Association of Iowa in 1891, and a corporate member of the American Board of Foreign Missions. His last public service was as chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for Old Settlers' Day at the celebration of the Semi-Centennial of the State. Animated by a surpassing zeal to honor the Commonwealth and its founders, he made extraordinary exertions to bring together the pioneers of fifty and sixty years ago, and obtain their testimony as to the beginnings of Iowa. He entertained at his own home the venerable Judge Murdock, the only one of the seven then surviving members of the Legislative Assemblies of the Territory who was present at the celebration; and now both host and guest have passed within the veil. Dr. Beardsley's exertions made the occasion a more memorable one than can occur again. It was the last great public gathering which Iowa can ever enjoy with a goodly number present whose lives were coeval with the beginnings of the State. In his supreme ardor for the work Dr. Beardsley went beyond his strength, and soon suffered a nervous exhaustion from which he did not rally. He died December 29, 1896, at his home in Burlington, aged 66 years, 10 months, 11 days, leaving the memory of a life ennobled by high qualities, by dignity of character, by shining personal worth, and by generous devotion to his country and to mankind.

w. s.

DAVID NORRIS, one of the oldest men in the State, died at the home of his daughter in Des Moines, February 20, 1897, aged ninety-five years and six months. In the death of "Uncle Davy," as he was familiarly known, Polk county loses its oldest living settler, a man who was identified with the history of the State for more than half a century. Mr. Norris was a native of Maryland, born near Fredericktown, in 1801, of Scotch and German parentage. In 1845 he removed with his family to the far and then unset-

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