

Warren Garst

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NOTABLE DEATHS

JOHN L. WAITE was born in Ravenna, Ohio, August 29, 1840, and died at Burlington, Iowa, March 21, 1924. He attended school in Ravenna and a private academy and a commercial school in Chicago, learned telegraphy and became an operator in Cleveland, at Lebanon, Ohio, and in Chicago. During his leisure hours in Chicago he began writing for newspapers and in 1860 covered for the *Cleveland Leader* the National Convention that nominated Lincoln. In 1862 he went to Burlington as a telegrapher and became superintendent of the Burlington & Missouri River Telegraph line with headquarters at Burlington. He wrote occasionally for the *Burlington Hawkeye* until in 1869 he resigned from the telegraph company and entered the employ of the *Hawkeye*, first as reporter and later as city editor. In 1874 he became associate editor to Frank Hatton. Robert J. Burdette became managing editor in 1874, but in 1876 resigned to go on the lecture platform and Mr. Waite was advanced to that position, and continued until 1882 when he was appointed postmaster at Burlington by President Arthur. At the end of his term, July, 1885, he became editor and publisher of the *Hawkeye*. In 1898 he was again appointed postmaster by President McKinley, and was reappointed by President Roosevelt in 1902 and again in 1906. He was active in aiding the establishment and development of rural free delivery and in many other improvements in mail service. In 1907-8 he was president of the National Association of First Class Postmasters. On retiring as postmaster in 1910 he resumed the editorial management of the *Hawkeye* and continued until 1917, when he retired, but continued as an occasional contributor. Mr. Waite was devoted to the editorial profession, had large influence and was recognized throughout the state and the West for his ability, good judgment, high ideals, and exalted character. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church from his youth, was deeply interested in young people and was helpful to his city and state in every good cause.

WARREN GARST was born in Dayton, Ohio, December 4, 1850, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, October 5, 1924. His parents were Michael and Maria Lawrie (Morrison) Garst. He was with them in their removal to Charleston, Illinois, in 1858, to Champaign, Illinois, in 1860, and to Boone (then called Montana), Iowa in 1866. Warren attended public school up to about this time, but had commenced work as a farm hand. He also assisted his brother Edward in the grocery business in Boone for a year or two, was a salesman in Chicago for a time, also was a brakeman on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, but in 1876 formed a partnership with his brother Edward in the mercantile business at Coon Rapids, his brother having located there five years previously. The firm

was very successful and eventually extended its business to farming and banking. Warren was elected senator in 1893 and was twice re-elected, serving inclusively from the Twenty-fifth to the Thirty-first general assemblies. He was chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate in the last five assemblies of which he was a member, was identified with the progressive element of his party and of the assembly, and had a prominent part in the legislation of that period. He was elected lieutenant governor in 1906, presided over the Senate during the Thirty-second General Assembly, and when Albert B. Cummins resigned November 24, 1908, because of his election as United States senator, Mr. Garst became governor, and served until the inauguration of B. F. Carroll January 14, 1909. After that, besides looking after his properties, he lived mostly a retired life in Des Moines. Although deprived of the opportunities of obtaining a good education in his youth, he came to be a cultured and well-read man. He was president of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association at the time of his death, and also was president of the Iowa branch of the League of Nations Nonpartisan Association.

WILLIAM GRAHAM was born at Montgomery, Orange County, New York, March 2, 1831, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. G. G. Davis, Forsyth, Montana, November 8, 1923. Burial was at Dubuque, Iowa. He was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1851, read law with John J. Monell at Newburg, and was admitted to the bar at Brooklyn, January 8, 1856. In August of that year he removed to Bellevue, Iowa, and formed a partnership with John B. Booth for the practice of law, which continued even after his removal to Dubuque, and until Judge Booth's death in 1869. In 1861 Mr. Graham was elected mayor of Bellevue and served one year. He was also president of the Board of Education of Bellevue for a time. In 1867 he removed to Dubuque and during his practice there was in partnership for a time with William Mills, and later with M. M. Cady, but for a long time practiced alone. In 1873 he was city attorney of Dubuque. In 1876 he was the Democratic candidate for judge of the Supreme Court. In 1885 he was assistant United States attorney for the Northern District of Iowa. Many opportunities came to him for public office, such as judge of the District Court, etc., but he accepted very few, not wanting to interfere with his law practice, which was extensive. He remained in active practice up to the January term of court, 1923, when he formally retired, then being nearly ninety-two years of age, and thought to be at that time the oldest lawyer in practice in the United States. He was a prominent lay member of the Presbyterian church and frequently was a representative in its presbytery, synod, and general conference. He was a director of the German Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Dubuque, and for thirty years was a trustee of Lenox College at Hopkinton.

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