

John Clinton Shrader

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NOTABLE DEATHS.

WILLIAM A. HUNTER was born in Carrollton, Ohio, July 8, 1845; he died at Anamosa, Iowa, Sept. 30, 1906. He came with his father's family to Newton, Iowa, in 1857, where he remained until October, 1861, when at the age of 17 he enlisted in Co. B, 13th Iowa Infantry. He went as a drummer boy, but after the battle of Shiloh he expressed a strong desire to lay aside the drum and carry a musket, in which wish he was gratified, thereafter serving in the ranks. He participated in many battles, before Atlanta, at Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, and was with Sherman in the battles before Richmond. He was present at the Grand Review in Washington just before the Union armies were mustered out of the service. He returned to Newton, from which place he went to Iowa College, at Grinnell, and took a part of the regular course. After leaving college he was engaged as a clerk in Newton, for the next year, and afterwards went to Ft. Dodge, where he had an interest in a mercantile establishment. He sold out his business in Ft. Dodge and returned to Newton, after which he engaged in the drug business in Belle Plaine, of which city he served two terms as postmaster. In 1898, the State legislature elected him for a term of two years as warden of the Anamosa penitentiary. He was also re-elected for another term of two years. At the expiration of this last term he was appointed to the same place by the Board of Control, which continued him in this position until the day of his death. From the outset he devoted himself assiduously to the investigation of the many problems involved in prison management, both theoretical and practical. His most successful reforms were the inauguration of the grade system and the banishment of the lock-step. He divided the male inmates into three classes, the intermediate class were accorded certain privileges and the discarding of prison stripes. Then, another grade above this was given still more desirable privileges and clothing practically as unobjectionable as an ordinary citizen's suit. Below these two grades was the class of incorrigibles, with prison stripes and limited privileges. This latter class involved but a small per cent. of the whole number of convicts. His plan worked admirably and gave the prisoners high hopes of restoration to the walks of useful and respectable life. Mr. Hunter became exceedingly useful in his philanthropic efforts to reform those under his charge, and his action met hearty endorsement all over the State and in many other states. He represented the State of Iowa in many conventions throughout the country where he ably presented his views of prison management. It is believed that he was instrumental in discharging many men who were thoroughly reformed and ready once more to take responsible positions in the communities where they lived. He inspired them with hope from the very start of their prison careers and kept them improving until the day of their discharge. He made a complete revolution in the management of the average prison and his example bids fair to be widely copied throughout the United States. *The Anamosa Eureka*, of October 4, 1906, contains a highly appreciative notice of the career, life and death of Warden Hunter from which we have compiled the facts herein stated.

JOHN CLINTON SHRADER was born in Washington county, Ohio, April 24, 1830; he died at Iowa City, Oct. 30, 1906. He graduated from the Marietta (O.) Academy, especially distinguished for his knowledge of the classics. He settled in Keokuk, Iowa, where he studied medicine in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Later he entered the Long Island Hospital in New York City from which he graduated

at the head of his class in 1870. When the civil war broke out Dr. Shrader was commissioned Captain of Co. H, 22d Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and some time afterwards was made surgeon of the regiment. During the Shenandoah campaign under General Sheridan he served as operating surgeon as he did in all the engagements in that region. He was for a time Hospital Director at Winchester, but was transferred to the South, serving at Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River, and the siege of Vicksburg. After the war he settled in Iowa City where he became a distinguished practitioner and an honored and public-spirited citizen. For twenty-eight years he was connected with the College of Medicine of the State University. He was physician of Mercy Hospital and health officer of Iowa City, a member of many medical societies in this and other states. He was for many years a member of the Iowa Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. He was a man of great public usefulness, both as educator and as physician and surgeon. His death was deeply deplored wherever he was known.

DANIEL O. FINCH was born in Unadilla, Otsego county, N. Y., June 6, 1829; he died in San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 27, 1906. His early education was received in Delaware Institute, Franklin, N. Y., in Oxford Academy, Chenango county, N. Y., and in the law office of Judge C. C. Noble, of Unadilla. He afterwards graduated from the Cherry Valley law school. In the spring of 1848, he began the practice of his profession in Monroe, Wisconsin. In 1851 he removed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he was associated with Judge George Greene: in 1853 he located in Des Moines, where he became one of the most prominent attorneys and democratic politicians of the State. He was first associated in the practice of the law with Judge Curtis Bates, afterwards with Judge Mitchell, Gen. M. M. Crocker, John A. Kasson and other prominent men. All through the prolonged litigation connected with the Des Moines River Land cases he was chief attorney for the River Land Company. He was for a time editor of the *Iowa Star*, one of the earliest papers published in the State. He was a candidate in 1854 for district judge, in 1857 for state senator, in 1862 for congress. He was delegate to the national democratic conventions in 1860, 1864, 1868, and was president of the State convention in 1867. From 1885 to 1889 he held the position of U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa. From the time that he came to Iowa until he retired from public life Mr. Finch was one of the most conspicuous leaders of the democratic party of this State. He enjoyed a high degree of personal popularity throughout his career.

JOHN H. LEAVITT was born in Franklin county, Mass., Oct. 11, 1831; he died in Waterloo, Iowa, Sept. 25, 1906. He was reared and educated in Massachusetts, and at the age of 23 started west, arriving in Waterloo in 1854, from which time he was a resident of that city until the day of his death. He was one of the early settlers of Black Hawk county, and its pioneer banker. His first two years in Iowa were occupied by the work of surveying and dealing in real estate. In 1856 he started a private bank, which was the foundation of the splendid institution of which he was the head at the time of his death. In 1898 the institution was reorganized as the Leavitt & Johnson National bank. This bank has enjoyed a wide reputation as one of the best financial institutions in Iowa. During all these years Mr. Leavitt has remained its president. He has always been known as one of the leading business men of Waterloo and Black Hawk county. He was public-spirited, participating in many of the large business enterprises of that region, and a man who always occupied a high place in the public confidence.

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