

William M. Stone, William Vandever, George T.
Carpenter

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well as by his constituents of all parties at home. He was a man of sound judgment, excellent business ability, and became an influential member of the Legislature. His sudden death in the prime of life is deeply regretted by all who knew him.

WILLIAM W. WALKER, one of the pioneer railroad builders of Iowa, died in Chicago, September 22. He was born in Cooperstown, New York, in 1834, and was educated for a civil engineer. He came to Iowa in 1855, and was soon after chosen chief engineer of the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska R. R., then being located and constructed from Chicago via Clinton, Iowa, to Council Bluffs. After the completion of that road he became chief engineer and one of the leading spirits in building the Sioux City & Pacific and Elkhorn Valley railroads. He was an active promoter of the B., C. R. & N. R. R., and for many years its superintendent. He afterwards built a road south from Hannibal, Missouri, and in later years built an important line in Arizona. He was the first president of the First National Bank of Cedar Rapids, and was also for many years one of the owners and editors of the Cedar Rapids *Republican*. He was widely acquainted with the leading men of Iowa for more than thirty years, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. His whole life was one of great usefulness, and his name will long be remembered as one of the pioneer railroad builders of Iowa, commencing, as he did, when the great system that now traverses every county in our State was in its infancy.

HON. J. WILSON WILLIAMS of Des Moines county, died at his home near Burlington on the 29th of August, at the age of 77. He was born in 1816, at Charlotte, Vermont, and was educated for a civil engineer. In 1836 he came west to Chicago, and settled in Hancock county, Illinois, where for twelve years he was county surveyor. He was engaged in making the survey of the boundary line between Iowa and Missouri. In 1850 he settled at Huron, Iowa, where he continued to live up to the time of his death. In 1852 he was first elected to

the Legislature and was repeatedly chosen, serving five terms in the House and two sessions in the Senate. During his first term in the House he was a colleague of James W. Grimes, afterward Governor and United States Senator. He was first a Whig, and afterwards a Republican in politics, from the organization of the latter party to the day of his death. He was one of the trustees of the Agricultural College during the years of its organization and the erection of the main building. In 1847 he married Miss Julia A. Robinson of Burlington. Mr. Williams had a very wide acquaintance throughout the State, and was esteemed as a genial, honorable and true man in every relation of life.

THE MISSISSIPPI'S OLDEST BOAT.—The Le Claire Navigation Company, of Davenport, has just sold the steamer Iowa. The price is not given, but it is not a large figure. The Iowa is the oldest boat on the river. She was built at Burlington in 1862. She was used on the rapids below here for a transfer at times of low water, when larger boats were not able to get up or down over that sticking point. Later, she was in service as a ferryboat at some point on this river now forgotten. She was originally a side wheeler, but was altered after her term of service as a ferry to a stern-wheeler. During all these thirty-one years she has been hard at it. She has had her share of the vicissitudes of river life, and has done her share of carrying and towing on the river, and still, after an unusually long term of service, she is a fair steamer yet.—*Burlington Gazette*.

HON. HENRY W. LATHROP'S "Life and Times of Samuel J. Kirkwood" will appear about the same time as this number of THE ANNALS. It promises to be a very popular book.

Without doubt the greatest book written by an Iowa man is Bishop W. S. Perry's History of the P. E. Church in this country; but through the failure of his publishers and a disastrous fire, it caused the author a loss of several thousand dollars. His friends hope it may yet be republished, and the Bishop himself has it in contemplation to bring it out in a cheaper edition.

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