

Notable Deaths

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famous creameries of that county. After his dealings in milk and vegetables he became a carpenter and worked some years in building houses, wherever he could find a job. Some portion of this time he was only able to command \$13 per month, payable in goods at the stores. This was the only "currency" of that period, and fifteen hours constituted a days' work. Later on he engaged in moving buildings, both those built of wood and masonry. In 1857 he married Miss Mary Elizabeth Barrows of Clayville, New York. His ambition led him to the study of architecture and some of the finest buildings in Muscatine and the surrounding country are samples of his work. He also acted for many years as Meteorological Observer for the United States Weather Signal Service Bureau. This Weather Record involved the most careful observations for forty-seven years, the first twenty-one of which were made and recorded by Hon. T. S. Parvin. After Mr. Parvin's time this work was done by Mr. Walton. He was one of the founders of the Muscatine Academy of Sciences, of which he was at one time president, and one of its trustees from the beginning. He was a prominent member of the Episcopal church, having been confirmed by the late Bishop Henry W. Lee in 1854. During the last dozen years he has devoted much of his time to writing and printing the early history of that portion of Iowa, more especially, however, of Muscatine and the surrounding country. We have had no more enterprising and industrious gatherer of materials for the history of our State. The Historical Department has been indebted to Mr. Walton for many valuable pamphlets and leaflets, which fact we are glad to place on record. He was a man of great usefulness, with energy and public spirit seldom equalled. *The Saturday Mail*, of Muscatine, contained a beautiful tribute to the memory of this good and useful man, from the pen of his daughter, Mrs. Alice Walton Beatty.

JOHN S. WOOLSON was born in Erie county, New York, December 6, 1840; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, December 4, 1899. His parents resided in Erie county until 1856, when they removed to Iowa and settled in Mt. Pleasant, Henry county, where he grew up to manhood and began the study of the law. In March, 1862, he was appointed assistant-paymaster in the navy, and assigned to service on the sloop-of-war *Housatonic*. He was on board this ship at the time she was sunk by a torpedo near Charleston, South Carolina. The officers and crew took to the water and he was picked up with others, uninjured. He was present at the attack on Fort Sumter, and at both attacks on Fort Fisher. He was also on the James river at the capture of Richmond. He retired from the naval service in December, 1865. Returning, he completed his legal studies and was admitted to the bar in 1866. He was for several years the law partner of Judge W. I. Babb. In 1875 he was chosen to the State Senate to fill a vacancy, and re-elected in 1877 for the full term of four years. He proved himself an able and influential senator. He was secretary of the Mt. Pleasant school board several years, and in 1870 became chairman of the State Board of Commissioners of Insanity. Upon the death of James M. Love, U. S. Judge of the Southern district of Iowa, Mr. Woolson was appointed to the place. In this position he became one of the leading jurists of the Middle West, distinguished for his legal knowledge, his promptness in expediting the business of the court, and for the certainty with which the penalties of the federal laws were enforced upon incorrigible transgressors. He always dealt most leniently with youthful offenders, and with men who came before him charged with a first offense. In a case where the plea of guilty was entered, before proceeding to pronounce sentence, he made the most thorough investigation into the man's character and standing up to the time he went astray, anxious to give him the benefit of every mitigating circumstance. It was always a terrible strain upon him to pronounce a severe sentence, as he sometimes had to do, in the presence of a weeping

wife. Whenever he felt that the ends of justice had been reached he was always ready to ask for the offender's pardon. When Judge Woolson signed a petition it was deemed safe to follow him in the plea for mercy. He was a man of the highest personal character, the soul of honor, an always upright Christian gentleman, well known throughout the State, and universally esteemed. In the maturity of his mental powers, and with the prospect of many useful years before him, he seemed but a short time ago to be singularly fortunate in his position and surroundings. But he fell a victim to overwork and passed away when his career of usefulness seemed fullest of promise.

WILLIAM McENTYRE DYE was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1831; he died at Muskegon, Michigan, November 13, 1899. He entered the Military Academy at West Point, July 1, 1849, and graduated No. 32 in his class of 52, July 1, 1853. Gen. P. H. Sheridan was No. 34 in the same class. He served until November 9, 1854, as brevet 2d lieutenant of Infantry, when he was promoted to 2d lieutenant. He was stationed at various places from Fort Columbus, New York, to Fort Reading, California, and at many posts on the Texas and western frontiers. He was promoted to captain of the 8th Infantry, May 14, 1861. Governor Kirkwood appointed him colonel of the 20th Iowa Volunteer Infantry August 25, 1862. He had previously served on mustering duty for some months in this State. From that time until the end of the Rebellion he was upon active duty, participating in many important battles. He was also engaged in the siege of Vicksburg and in most of the important events of the Department of the Gulf. He was brevetted major, lieutenant-colonel and colonel in the Regular Army, for gallant and meritorious service. On March 31, 1865, he was made brevet brigadier-general of Volunteers. After the war he went back to his rank of major of the 4th Regular Infantry, in which he served until September 7, 1870, when he was honorably discharged at his own request. Returning to Iowa he settled at Marion, Linn county, as a farmer, where he remained until 1873. In the latter year he went to Egypt, where he served in the Khedive's army, and was severely wounded in the Battle of Abyssinia. He returned to this country in 1879 and served as Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia, in 1883-86. In 1888 this gallant soldier of fortune went to Corea, where he became military adviser and instructor-general in the service of the King of that country, introducing modern equipments and methods. He returned in 1899, "to die at home at last." He wrote a valuable book on "Moslem Egypt and Christian Abyssinia, or Military Service under the Khedive," which is one of the leading authorities on that region. Though not attaining the highest rank and position, Gen. Dye made a brilliant and enduring record in the service of his own country before accepting service abroad.

JOHN I. BLAIR was born in Warren county, New Jersey, August 22, 1802; he died at Blairstown, New Jersey, December 2, 1899. He was directly descended from John Blair who emigrated from Scotland to this country in 1720. His education was limited to a few months in the common schools during the winter and ended when he reached the age of eleven. He immediately entered a store at Hope, New Jersey, for the purpose of learning the business. He remained there until 1821 when he settled in Blairstown, New Jersey, in co-partnership with John Blair, a relative, and established a general country store. Two years later the partnership was dissolved and he continued the business for forty years, establishing branches in several neighboring towns, and in Johnsonsburg, New York. He also became interested in flouring mills, cotton manufactures and buying and selling country produce. He filled the office of postmaster in Blairstown forty years. From the year 1846 he was connected with the building of railroads,

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