

Dexter C. Bloomer

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NOTABLE DEATHS.

DEXTER C. BLOOMER was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., July 4, 1816; he died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, Feb. 24, 1900. He was of Quaker parentage, and was reared under the influences of that wise and equable people. The impressions which a youth so "watched and tended" left upon his character remained with him to the end of his singularly beautiful and useful life. After his common school education, he studied law, but turned his attention to politics and journalism, and for a time edited *The Courier*, at Seneca Falls, N. Y. He belonged to the Whig party. His newspaper work soon made him a prominent factor in that section. He held a number of local offices, among which was that of postmaster from 1849 to 1853. In the latter year he came west and settled in Mt. Vernon, O., where he published *The Western Home Visitor*, in the editorial conduct of which he was ably assisted by his wife, who had already attained a national—almost world-wide—fame as an advocate of woman's suffrage and dress reform. Business interests, however, drew him to Council Bluffs, whither he removed in 1855. Since that time, few educators have been better known in our State. He became a member in 1861 of the State Board of Education, which came into existence with the adoption of the present constitution and was abolished March 23, 1864. He early took an active and prominent part in developing the schools and library interests of Council Bluffs, continuing a worker for their advancement until his own life ended. To no other one resident is so much due for the excellent educational progress of that thriving city. In fact, the influence of his labors, local though they were, was felt throughout the State. During the years which elapsed after he settled at Council Bluffs he had held many positions of honor and trust, as Receiver of the U. S. Land Office from 1861 until it was abolished years afterward; Mayor of that city in 1872; President of the School Board, and President of the County Bar Association. He held the position of senior warden of St. Paul's Episcopal church for forty years. He wrote a "History of Pottawattamie County," and soon after the death of his wife published "The Life and Writings of Amelia Bloomer" (Boston, 1895), a loving and beautiful tribute to her useful life. To the work of The Historical Department of Iowa he was always a valued friend, ever ready to write or speak words of encouragement. He had contributed several valuable articles to THE ANNALS, and had given us information in regard to securing others. His portrait appeared in Vol. II, p. 586, and there are many references to him elsewhere in our pages. He was one of the best men the writer has ever known, and our acquaintance dated from 1870. He possessed a fund of rich and varied information and was a rare converser. A meeting with him was an opportunity to be prized and an event long to be remembered. His character was a symmetrical one, well developed in every direction. His nature was geniality and kindness personified, though no man was ever more fixed and settled in his opinions upon questions involving right and wrong. His influence was always exerted for the best interests of the community in which he resided, and for the State of which he was proud.

BOARDMAN O. SHAW, father of the present governor of Iowa, died at his home at Morrisville, Vermont, on Tuesday, March 6. He was born in the same town in the month of August, 1816. Much of his life was spent on a farm in the neighboring town of Stowe, where his son Leslie was born. In his youth he had taught school for several years and his conversation always gave evidence of culture, although he had had no advantages of a college education. The deceased was twice married. His first wife was Lavisa Spaulding, who was of a family that half a century ago were noted in the

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