

John S. Murphy

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NOTABLE DEATHS.

JOHN S. MURPHY was born in Schuylkill county, Pa., in 1847; he died in Dubuque, Iowa, February 10, 1902. His parents were natives of Ireland. On reaching America they resided for a time in Pennsylvania, but removed to Anamosa, Jones county, where they settled upon a farm. Their son received his education in the common schools and in learning the trade of a printer. He became an apprentice in the office of *The Dubuque Herald* in 1859. After serving his time he went to St. Louis and worked on *The Globe-Democrat* where he was soon allotted a place on the reportorial staff. After doing editorial work for some years he returned to Dubuque where he again became a type-setter, and was soon known as one of the fastest and best printers in that city. He was also again called to reportorial duties, and in 1879 became the editor of *The Daily Telegraph*. He first appeared conspicuously in politics in 1896, becoming next to W. J. Bryan the most prominent advocate of "free silver" doctrines in the Middle West. His paper was consolidated with *The Herald* in October, 1891. He had, therefore, conducted *The Telegraph-Herald* but a little over four months when his death came suddenly as he was working at his desk. This event called forth the highest tributes of respect from the press throughout the country, and none were more earnest and appreciative than those of his most pronounced political adversaries. From many columns of eulogy we select the following from the pen of Hon. Jacob Rich, a retired journalist of Dubuque: "A graduate of the public school and of the printing office, he was almost wholly self-taught, and therefore no one could fail to mark with ever-increasing admiration the growth of his mental power. His vocabulary was far in advance of many college-trained students or professors, and gave him great facility and felicity of expression. His mind was notably analytic, and in the field of polemics he was a master, rarely if ever forgetting the proper dignity and courtesy of debate. If his remedies might be wrong, he himself was never in doubt of their usefulness and efficiency. He would advocate nothing but from conscience, and never failed to at least convince you of his sincerity. In every cause he was found wonderfully fortified with fact and logic, showing the sources of his own faith, and marking him always as the trained and skilled antagonist. With it all he was broad-minded, kindly-spirited, pure-hearted. He was a veritable evangelist of labor, gauging every movement by what he believed, rightfully or mistakenly, to be for labor's weal or detriment. His industry was marvelous and his editorial life a most strenuous one. Compensation cut no figure in the performance of his duty. His own pride and the sense of his own power were the only stimulants to his intense life. His daily contribution to the columns of *The Telegraph-Herald* numbered many columns, and he rarely sought a day of rest. Doubtless out of his intenseness of effort, his strenuosity of life, it has come that in the very zenith of his strength and power he has been stricken down as from a lightning's blow. Dubuque had pride in his growth; in the recognition in the state of his mental power and manly worth. It will be many a day before the sense of his loss will cease to sadden all our hearts."

IRA COOK was born in Union, Brown county, N. Y., October 16, 1821; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, March 11, 1902. He came to Iowa with his parents in 1836, the family settling in what is now Davenport, which locality was at that time only a trading point. Soon after reaching Iowa, which was then attached to Michigan for judicial purposes, Mr. Cook's father was appointed Justice of the Peace by the governor of Michigan. When the Cook family first came west, they journeyed one hundred miles to "Olean Point" on the Allegany river, in Cattaraugus county, New

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