

John Adam Kreckel, Henry E. J. Boardman, William  
Cowles James

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## NOTABLE DEATHS.

THE VERY REVEREND JOHN ADAM KRECKEL was born at Nassau, in Rhenish Prussia, June 5, 1826; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, June 19, 1899. In his sixth year he came with his family to the United States. They settled at Lancaster, Pa. He made his studies with the Redemptorist Fathers at Baltimore, Maryland, and with the Jesuits at Cincinnati, Ohio. He volunteered for the Missions of Arkansas with Bishop Byrne of Little Rock, and taught for some time in the Seminary at Fort Smith. Coming North to the Diocese of Dubuque he was ordained priest by Bishop Loras, November 19, 1853, and February 11, 1854, was placed in charge of Ottumwa with a large field of labor comprising Wapello, Wayne, Appanoose, Monroe and Polk counties. His stand was strong for law and order. McComb, under sentence of death for the murder of a girl, had been respited by the governor. Popular fury against the hardened criminal broke loose, and a mob battered open the prison and dragged him away to Sugar Creek Hill to hang him. Father Kreckel pleaded with the mob, induced them to give him time to prepare for death, baptized him, accompanied him to the place chosen for vengeance, and kept their attention with his discussion of the case and the folly of their purpose, until some militia arrived from Agency City, when the prisoner was rescued and returned to jail. He was afterwards executed according to law. Father Kreckel built St. Mary's church, then the finest structure in the county, in 1860. In 1863 he opened the Academy for Young Ladies. There are now three Catholic churches in the city. The city expressed its estimate of the man and its general bereavement in the splendid funeral: platoons of police, brass bands, and an immense procession, escorted the remains to the cemetery at the close of the solemn religious services at St. Mary's church, where sixty priests with the Bishop of the Diocese assisted. The eulogy upon every lip was, "Father Kreckel was an honest man."

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HENRY E. J. BOARDMAN was born in Danville, Vermont, June 24, 1828; he died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, April 14, 1899. He received a liberal education, graduating from Dartmouth College, in 1850. He went south after leaving the college, becoming professor of languages in the East Tennessee University. He was admitted to the bar in Tennessee, just before leaving for the North. He came to Marshall county, Iowa, in 1853, settling at Marietta, which was at that time the capital of the county. He became a conspicuous figure in the acrimonious contest for the county seat, which at one time came very near resulting in bloodshed. When the issue was finally settled in favor of Marshalltown he removed to that city which became his permanent residence. He was a man of great ability and thorough culture. Had he given his attention to literature there can be little doubt that he would have won a high place in American letters. He was several times the choice of the Democratic party for its high honors, but owing to its being, with rare exceptions, in the minority, he won no success in that direction. But as a citizen and business man he became one of the most conspicuous figures in central Iowa. His life was one of intense activity. He became a large landholder, banker and railroad attorney, and at his death his fortune was estimated at one and a half millions of dollars. He was "a man who considered his word as good as a contract in writing, and in exacting the fulfillment of contracts on the part of others he was thought by some to be a hard taskmaster. Those close to Mr. Boardman for years say that in this he was unjustly criticised, and that his beneficence and charities were many and known only to himself." He was nearly the last of the conspicuous men residing at Marshalltown during the sixties whose large business operations made them known throughout the State.

JOHN TEMPLE STONE was born in Dansville, New York, February 12, 1846; he died at Nevada, Iowa, April 2, 1899. His mother, then a widow, settled in Illinois about the year 1855, where he grew to manhood. He enlisted in Co. B, 34th Illinois Infantry, February 2, 1864, serving with Sherman throughout the campaign that ended in the capture of Atlanta. He was taken ill of typhoid fever just in time to miss the famous "March to the Sea." Upon his recovery he joined his regiment and participated in the closing conflicts of the Civil War. He reached Nevada in the fall of 1865 where he resided until the time of his death. In 1868, or a year or two earlier, he entered the office of *The Nevada Representative*, where he continued to be employed during the remainder of his life. He became well known in Story county, where he won a high place in the esteem of all who knew him. *The Representative* speaks in the most complimentary terms of his high character and noble qualities. From what has been written in relation to Mr. Stone we copy the following tribute by Hon. J. M. Brainard of *The Boone Standard*: "It is not-often that a printer in Iowa spends his life in the office which he enters as an apprentice, the only other instance that I now recall being that of Mr. John Mahin, publisher of *The Muscatine Journal*. Mr. Stone's life has been one of faithful attention to duty as the same was presented to him day by day. It may have been uneventful but it was shorn of the restless care which marks the existence of those who are not contented to walk the 'cool sequestered vale of life.' He was always cheerful, and he was by nature kind. With kindness, cheerfulness and contentment, why may not his life be written as a successful one? How many there are who would gladly exchange all that struggle and vexation has gathered about them for this trinity at the end!"

DANIEL W. FLAGLER was born in Western New York, (probably at Lockport), March 24, 1835; he died at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, March 29, 1899. He was appointed a cadet at West Point in 1856 and graduated fifth in his class, June 24, 1861. From the date of his graduation to the day of his death he was continuously in the regular army, in which he rose through all the grades to brigadier-general and chief of ordnance. He served in the battle of Bull Run as acting aide-de-camp to Col. Hunter. He also took part in the battles of Roanoake Island, Newberne, Fort Macon, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He served at various posts as ordnance officer, until 1871, when he was placed in command of the arsenal at Rock Island, Illinois, where he succeeded General T. J. Rodman, the great ordnance expert and inventor. He remained there until 1886, when he was transferred to the Frankford Arsenal, Pennsylvania. The service through which he became best known to the people of Iowa was at Rock Island. He was made brigadier-general and chief of ordnance January 23, 1891, after which he served at the army headquarters in Washington. He was a man of large ability, an accomplished, brave and energetic officer, who won distinguished credit wherever he served. During the war with Spain he suffered greatly from overwork which it was thought resulted in his death. He was the chief artisan and builder of the arsenal at Rock Island, which will always remain the most distinguishing result of his long and faithful service. He wrote a "History of the Rock Island Arsenal and Island of Rock Island" which was published by the government in 1877. It is a large quarto volume, and a work of great merit, but it has been out of print for many years. He always manifested the most friendly interest in the Historical Department of Iowa and was very helpful in its acquisition of articles of historical interest.

MORGAN G. THOMAS was a native of Wales, where he was born fifty-four years ago; he died in Des Moines, April 11, 1899. Mr. Thomas had an eventful life, having emigrated to Australia in the early seventies. He had pursued the vocations both of a farmer and miner. He worked many

years in gold, copper and coal mines, acquiring a large experience in those employments. He was appointed by Gov. William Larrabee as state mine inspector, which position he held by regular appointments until the date of his death. He was recognized by all who knew him as an expert in mining matters. He was a practical, progressive man, whose honesty and sense of justice commended him to the kind regard of all who knew him. By the mine owners and operatives he was implicitly trusted and was often instrumental in settling their constantly recurring disputes. He was considered a competent counselor and a fair guide. A well educated man, he was largely interested in Welsh literature. He had made many efforts for the revival of the literature of that country, and had published many original articles and translations on that subject. He was a man of great generosity, giving large sums of money to various charities. His death was a sad loss to the mining interests of the State.

DENNIS F. MCCARTHY died at his home in Des Moines, June 18, 1899. Col. McCarthy was born in Ireland, July 9, 1836. While he was very young his parents came to this country and settled in New England. He received his education in Massachusetts. In 1857 he located at Dubuque, Iowa, and studied law in the office of Hon. J. P. Farley, while he also made surveys for the government. He later removed to Faribault, Minnesota, where he was private secretary and confidential friend of the then prominent David Faribault. In 1862 he entered the army as 2d lieutenant of Co. H, Tenth Minnesota Volunteers, and was sent with Gen. Sibley through the Dakotas where the Indians were making trouble. On his return from this campaign he was promoted to a captaincy, serving under General Rosecrans. He saw active service in the war until 1864, when, owing to ill health, he was mustered out, and returned to Faribault. In 1872 he again became a resident of Iowa, locating at St. Ansgar. In 1885 he was elected to the legislature from Mitchell county. In 1887 he became deputy state auditor. In 1893 he was appointed state bank examiner. His life was a useful one and he enjoyed the fullest confidence of his associates.

JUDGE WILLIAM COWLES JAMES was born at Elmira, Ohio, January 1, 1830; he died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 2, 1899. He was an old-time pioneer, who settled in Council Bluffs in 1853, and resided there until his death. In his early years he had worked as a carpenter and brick mason. He erected the first brick house in Council Bluffs in 1855. He became a lawyer and was for many years a member of the well known firm of Montgomery, Reed & James. He was especially distinguished for his knowledge of the laws relating to real estate. He was elected county judge in 1856, served many years as alderman, and was twice elected mayor of the city. In 1877 he was the Democratic candidate for lieutenant-governor. In the time of his greatest activity he was connected with most of the public enterprises which have resulted in the growth and prosperity of Council Bluffs. One who knew him well says: "He was generous to a fault and there was no limit to what he would do for a friend. Throughout his career he bore the reputation of a scrupulously honest man."

THOMAS HARDIE died at his home in Dubuque, April 10, 1899. He was born in Montreal, January 25, 1819. He had been a resident of Dubuque for more than fifty years, and had held many positions of public trust. During the administrations of Presidents Pierce and Buchanan he served in the office of his friend, Gen. Warner Lewis, who was Surveyor General of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Mr. Hardie represented Dubuque county in the Sixth and Ninth General Assemblies, and was considered a parliamentarian of unusual ability. He had served thirty-six years continuously as secretary of the Dubuque Board of Education. He was a prominent Mason and Odd Fellow and had held offices in each organization.

JOSEPH BUFFON STEWART was born near St. Charles, Missouri, August 12, 1821; he died at Des Moines, Iowa, May 10, 1899. His father, Dr. Abram Stewart, was for many years a surgeon in the U. S. army. He died in 1834, and the following year the mother removed to Fort Madison, Iowa. Mr. Stewart was fourteen years of age at this time and thenceforward his home was in this State. He settled in Des Moines in 1853, where he became an officer in the U. S. Land Office. He was personally acquainted with Black Hawk and many other prominent Iowa Indians, as well as with the leading men of our State during the past half century. He became an extensive dealer in real estate, from which he realized a handsome fortune. His long residence in this State had stored his memory with varied recollections, some of which he intended to write out for these pages; but the opportunity for doing this never came. He was a genial, pleasant gentleman whose departure was widely deplored.

ABEL BEACH, a pioneer resident of the State died at his home in Iowa City, June 19, 1899. He was born in New York and was about seventy years of age. He graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1849. In 1854 he removed to Iowa City. In 1855 he occupied for a short time the chair of Latin and Greek in the State University, ill health compelling him to resign. He was one of the charter members of the Theta Delta Chi fraternity. When the capital was removed to Des Moines, he came with it and served as deputy state auditor from 1855 to 1859, under John Pattee. When his term of office expired he returned to Iowa City, which became his home. He was for a short time acting private secretary to Gov. Kirkwood. Mr. Beach was a man of wide learning and literary tastes. In 1895 he published a book of poems called "Western Airs."

SPENCER S. BENEDICT died at Sioux City, the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. M. Robinson, April 9, 1899. Mr. Benedict was prominent in the business and political circles of Civil War times and earlier. He was born in Albany, October 19, 1812. In 1837 he was chosen assistant alderman in Albany; from 1839-41 he was colonel on the staff of Gov. Seward, and was also on the staffs of Governors Hamilton Fish and E. D. Morgan. Later he served as quartermaster-general of the state, as harbor master of the port of New York, and during the war he was the confidential friend of Secretary Seward. He remained in the state department for several years. He was the only surviving member of the original board of trustees of the New York Life Insurance Company.

ROBERT LOWRY was a native of Blair county, Pennsylvania; he died at Huron, South Dakota, April 17, 1899, at the age of eighty-three. He settled at Davenport, Iowa, in 1853, and was for some time associated in business with Hon. Hiram Price. He became one of the leading grain dealers of eastern Iowa. While residing in Davenport he was elected state senator (1869) for Scott county, serving the regular term of four years. He was a leading and influential member of the senate, taking an active interest in the legislation of that period. He was appointed register of the U. S. Land Office at Huron, South Dakota, some sixteen or seventeen years ago, and that city was thereafter his home until his death. Mr. Lowry represented the State of Iowa on the Centennial Commission of 1876.

MASTEN H. JONES, a pioneer settler of Davis county, died at his home in Bloomfield, Iowa, May 25, 1899. He was born in Putnam county, Indiana, January 7, 1828. He was admitted to the bar in Indiana in March, 1851, and the same month removed to Bloomfield where he afterwards practiced law. He served in the Civil War as lieutenant of Co. D, Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry. He served in various positions of trust in the county. A sketch of his life written by his life-long friend Col. S. A. Moore, appeared in *The Daily Iowa Capital* for May 29.

ALBERT BOOMER, a well known physician of Delaware county, died at his home in Delhi, Iowa, April 15, 1899. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, October 30, 1824. In 1854 he graduated from Rush Medical college, Chicago, and located the same year at Delhi. During the Civil War he served as assistant surgeon of the Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry. He was a representative in the Eleventh General Assembly and served as state senator in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth. He was an active member of the G. A. R., and an ardent prohibitionist.

ROMAINE A. WHITAKER was born in Oneida county, New York, August 26, 1828; he died in Waterloo, Iowa, March 23, 1899. He was a pioneer settler of Waterloo, having located there in 1856. Mr. Whitaker was the first mayor of the town. He served many years on the school board, was eight years county treasurer, and secretary of the Black Hawk County Agricultural Society for twenty-one years. At the time of his death was president of the County Early Settlers' Association.

ANDREW J. HYDE, one of the earliest pioneers of Scott county, died at his home in Davenport, May 16, 1899. He was born in Ferrisburg, Vermont, January 26, 1817. He came to Iowa in 1836, and for sixty-three years had made his home in Scott county. In early days he was connected with the Government Land Department. He was a member of the Fifth General Assembly. At the time of his death he was president of the Old Settlers' Association.

WALTER WAGNER, a member of Co. A, Fifty-first Iowa Regiment, was killed in battle at Zapote, Luzon, on June 13, 1899. He was a Des Moines boy, having been born and raised in the city, and was but twenty-two years of age at the time of his death. This brave young soldier volunteered for a special and perilous service with the Hawthorne mountain battery, and with four others of his company was detailed for that work. He was the first man in the Fifty-first Iowa Infantry to lose his life in battle.

Mrs. PETER A. DEY (Catherine Thompson) was born in Buffalo, New York, sixty-five years ago; she died in Iowa City, June 12, 1899. "She was a woman of splendid attainments and stood in the highest ranks of social and religious life." She was the wife of Hon. Peter A. Dey. The family became widely known throughout this and other states from his long and distinguished services on the Boards of Capitol and Railroad Commissioners.

ERNST MUELLER was born in Dahl, Germany, in November, 1832, and died at his home in Butler township, Scott county, April 18, 1899. He settled there in 1854. He was a man of great intelligence and active in public affairs. In politics he was a Republican and represented Scott county in the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth General Assemblies.

JOHN C. BISHARD, a pioneer of Polk county, was born in Cambridge, Ohio, January 25, 1812, and died at the age of eighty-seven, near Altoona, Iowa, March 9, 1899. Mr. Bishard came to Iowa in 1859 and had lived in Polk county nearly forty years. With his wife he celebrated the sixty-sixth anniversary of their marriage last January. Mrs. Bishard died a few weeks later.

IRA R. SHIPLEY was born in Carroll county, Maryland, September 5, 1826; he died at his home in Richland township, Guthrie county, May 17, 1899. During the Civil War he served as captain in the 127th and 205th Pennsylvania regiments. He has lived in Guthrie county since 1869. He was a member of the Twenty-second and Twenty-third General Assemblies.

Mrs. CAROLINE J. BOLTER died at her home in Logan, Iowa, April 4, 1899, at the age of fifty-seven. She was the wife of State Senator L. R. Bolter, and was highly respected throughout her wide circle of acquaintance.

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