

William Wallace Junkin

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NOTABLE DEATHS.

WILLIAM WALLACE JUNKIN was born at Wheeling, Va., Jan. 26, 1831; he died at Fairfield, Iowa, Feb. 19, 1903. His parents resided at Wheeling until he was 13 years of age, when they removed to Iowa. The journey was made by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and the family was compelled, by the closing of navigation, to spend the winter in St. Louis. The father first located in Louisa county, but later on removed to the vicinity of the old Mormon town of Augusta, in Lee county, and in 1845 to Jefferson county. He opened a farm three miles south of Fairfield, where the subject of this notice remained some years contributing his share of labor toward the making of a home. "He well remembered when there was not money enough in the community to pay the postage on a letter; when dressed pork sold at \$1 a hundred; and when he, with other boys, broke a basket of eggs by throwing them at a mark in the park in Fairfield, because they could not sell them at two and a half cents a dozen, after carrying them from the farm." He had partly learned his trade as a printer in Wheeling, and found employment for a time in St. Louis. In 1847 he was employed by Mr. A. R. Sparks, who had established *The Iowa Sentinel*, the first newspaper published in Jefferson county. He afterwards came to Des Moines and secured a position in *The Star* office, then owned by Hon. Barlow Granger, who "still lives." This was the first paper published at the capital city—June, 1848. The next year he was employed in the office of *The Ottumwa Courier*, returning to Fairfield in 1849, where he was employed in the office of *The Ledger*, which had just been started. In 1851 he went to Richmond, Va., where he worked two years in the State Printing Office. Coming back to Iowa in 1853, he acquired a half interest in *The Fairfield Ledger*, which was then published by Hon. A. R. Fulton, a well known Iowa newspaper man and historical writer. Mr. Fulton retired the next year, when Mr. Junkin became the sole proprietor. In 1868 Ralph Robinson, now of *The Newton Journal*, purchased a half interest, which he retained until 1875. In 1878, Charles M. Junkin, his eldest son, became his business partner and associate editor of *The Ledger*, this arrangement continuing till his death. "He was without doubt the dean of Iowa journalism, having owned and edited *The Fairfield Ledger* nearly fifty years." During all this time *The Ledger* was one of the foremost Iowa weeklies, and wielded a powerful influence in the politics of this State. Mr. Junkin was a life-long friend and associate of James F. Wilson, and aided powerfully in the establishment of the Fairfield Public Library, which is one of the oldest institutions of the kind in Iowa. He was himself a collector, and a large contributor to the museum and general resources of that institution. His life was long and useful, and his recollections of men and events in our State were well worthy of preservation. The editor of THE ANNALS had urged him to write them out for these pages, and we understand that he had commenced the work, but so late in life that he was unable to complete it. His life was full of good works, and his death has occasioned wide regret..

J. K. P. THOMPSON was born near Carey, O., Aug. 21, 1845; he died at Rock Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 15, 1903. Though starting in a primitive log school house in Ohio, and studying much of the time at home, Mr. Thompson became a well educated man. His father's family had settled in the woods in his native state, where the roads were simply paths "blazed" through the forest, and pioneer conditions prevailed everywhere. In November, 1857, the family removed to Iowa in a covered wagon, traveling through forests and over unbroken prairies, fording rivers and enduring hardships, the trip occupying nearly forty days. They settled in Clayton county, then upon the extreme frontier, remaining upon their farm some

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