

J. K. P. Thompson

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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

twelve years. Aug. 18, 1862, young Thompson enlisted as a musician in Co. D, 21st Iowa volunteers (Gov. Samuel Merrill's regiment), in which he served three years. He was severely wounded at Vicksburg, May 22, 1863, and during that siege was under fire for forty days and nights. Altogether he participated in seven battles, besides skirmishes and minor engagements. After the war he studied law with Woodward & Preston at Elkader, Iowa. He was admitted to the bar in 1873, in which year he removed to Rock Rapids, where he began a very prosperous business career. He opened the first law office in Lyon county, building up a large practice, and gaining a reputation as an able lawyer. In 1877 he organized the Lyon County Bank, which has always been a successful institution. Col. Thompson was an untiring worker in behalf of whatever engaged his attention. Public spirited, patriotic, and earnest in the support of everything which he believed would advance the interest of his town, county or State. He was an influential member of the G. A. R., a charter member and past commander of Dunlap Post, No. 147, which he caused to be named in honor of the lieutenant-colonel of his regiment who was killed at Vicksburg. He became commander of the G. A. R., Department of Iowa, in 1895, and also had the honor to be appointed lieutenant-colonel on the staffs of Governors Larrabee and Jackson. Governor Drake promoted him to the rank of colonel. He was one of the chief promoters of the Vicksburg National Military Park, and chairman of the committee to locate the positions of the various Iowa regiments during the siege. He held prominent positions in the Masonic order, Knights of Pythias, and the Bankers and Bar associations. He was also a life trustee of Iowa College at Grinnell, and a trustee of the Congregational Church at Rock Rapids. During the last two years Col. Thompson's health had been gradually declining. He had made two or three trips to California in the hope that a change of climate might overcome the disease which was rapidly sapping his strength, but received no permanent benefit. In his death northwestern Iowa lost one of its most prominent and useful citizens. His portrait and an elaborate article from his pen may be found in No. 4, Vol. 5, of this series of THE ANNALS.

WILLIAM PENN CLARK was born Oct. 1, 1817, in Baltimore, Md.; he died at Washington, D. C., Feb. 7, 1903. When about ten years of age he went to Gettysburg to learn the printing business with Robert G. Harper, who published *The Adams Sentinel*. After serving an apprenticeship of three years he went to Washington where he worked at his trade until the spring of 1838, when he started for the west. He crossed the Alleghenies on foot, reaching Pittsburg, where he worked a short time, when he passed on to Wheeling, Va. From that point he descended the Ohio river in a skiff, reaching Cincinnati on his 21st birthday. Here he entered into a partnership and started a small two-cent daily paper. Later on he joined an expedition to go to Galveston for the purpose of establishing a paper, but the party got stranded at New Orleans, whence he worked his way back to Cincinnati, resuming his old position on *The Daily News*. Like many other printers of those days he was connected with various papers, but in 1844 came to Iowa, settling at Iowa City. He was admitted to the bar the following year, and opened a law office. He was an active politician from that time until he left the State. He was so pronounced an abolitionist that "he ran the underground railroad and aided John Brown." He served as reporter of the supreme court of this State for five years, and his reports are probably his best and most permanent work. He was appointed paymaster in the army in 1863, serving until 1866, during which time he disbursed over \$3,000,000 to the soldiers. Removing to Washington soon afterwards he was appointed chief clerk of the Interior Department, serving until he was removed by President Andrew Johnson. He afterwards had considerable practice in the supreme court and court of claims. While

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