

Gideon Smith Bailey

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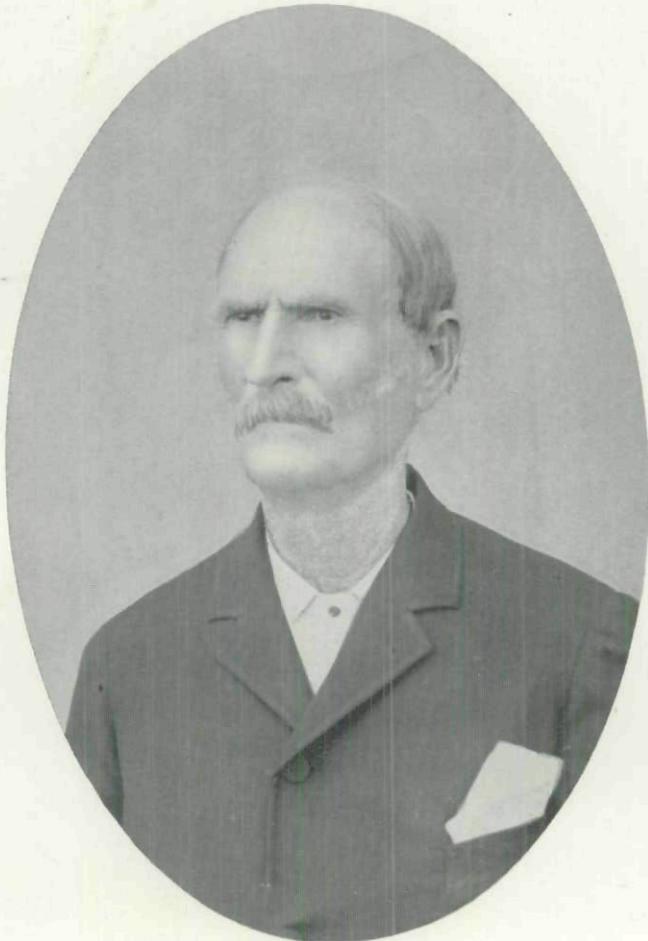
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NOTABLE DEATHS.

CHARLES PITKIN BIRGE was born January 8, 1835, in Franklin Mills (now Kent), O.; he died at Keokuk, Iowa, Oct. 23, 1903. His parents had removed from Connecticut to Ohio in 1834. Charles remained at home attending school until his father removed to Aurora, O., in 1845. He attended school during the winter of '50-'51 at Oberlin, O., where he boarded with the publisher of the town paper, spending much time in the printing-office where he learned to set type. Up to the year 1856 he was employed in various mercantile establishments as clerk, having lived in several towns on the lower Mississippi river and in Arkansas. He settled in Keokuk in 1856, where he engaged in the wholesale grocery business on Fourth street, with C. A. Kellogg as his business partner. The firm became one of the most successful and widely known in southeastern Iowa. In 1861 he joined the City Rifles, a company of home soldiers whose muster roll included such names as Noble, Belknap, Worthington, McDowell, Bruce and Hillis, the most of whom became distinguished during the civil war. Mr. Birge gave much time and effort to the establishment of the Keokuk Public Library, and was one of the first vice-presidents of the Association. He served on the city board of education six years, when he was appointed commissioner of Prison Labor for Iowa, by Gov. Gear. He was also prominent in the efforts which were made in the later seventies to improve the navigation of the Mississippi river. He was one of the founders and vice-president for many years of the Keokuk Savings Bank. He presented to the city his residence as a Home for the Aged. He gave to the city a beautiful drinking fountain which stands in Rand Park. The Keokuk Public Library contains a number of valuable medallions and casts which he presented to that institution. He presented to the State Historical Department, not long before his death, a rare collection of silver medals which had been given by the U. S. Government to Indian Chiefs in the west, but which had been acquired by him during his business life, together with several other articles of lesser value. He had also been an indefatigable collector of material relating to the Battle of Athens, Mo., which will some day prove of great use to the historian. Personally, he was a genial companion, and an excellent man every way. Works for the benefit of the public and for the diffusion of knowledge always enlisted his best efforts. In the truest sense of the word he was a philanthropist. The Keokuk papers of Oct. 24, 1903, contain eloquent tributes to his merits as a citizen and a man.

GIDEON SMITH BAILEY was born June 3, 1809, near Louisville, Ky.; he died at Vernon, Van Buren county, Iowa, Nov. 5, 1903. His death removes the last surviving member of our first territorial legislature. His early youth was spent in Indiana. There were no public schools at that day, but he improved every opportunity to learn, and at eighteen was himself teaching school. With a little help from his father, and by splitting rails and doing other work for his board, he secured the means to study medicine. In 1832 he began the practice of his profession in Charlestown, Ill. The Lincoln family was among his patrons and he attended Abraham Lincoln's father in his last illness. In 1837 he came to Iowa and settled at Vernon on the claim that became the farm where he lived for over 66 years. He was a member of the house in the first (1838-9) and second (1839-40) territorial legislatures; a member of the council in the third (1840-1) and fourth (1841-2); a member of the first constitutional convention in 1844; a member of the senate in the seventh and eighth state legislatures (1858-60). He declined the governorship of the Territory, tendered by President Polk. In 1845 he was appointed U. S. Marshal for Iowa, a very important position in that early day, entailing an immense amount of



G. S. Bailey

DR. GIDEON S. BAILEY,
Pioneer settler at Vernon, Van Buren county, Iowa. Territorial and State
legislator, United States marshal, etc., etc.

work and travel on horseback. Dr. Bailey's ability made him a leader in the legislature during the many years he was a member. During the civil war he was arrested by the military authorities for alleged disloyalty and immured in the Gratiot Street Prison in St. Louis. When this came to the knowledge of his excellent friends, the late Judge George G. Wright and Gen. W. W. Belknap, they promptly secured his release. Relating the transaction more than twenty-five years afterward the old Doctor laughed about it as a good joke—the idea that he could have been disloyal! Up to 1860 his life had been filled with the excitement of business and politics, but thenceforward he lived in quiet and retirement.

JOHN H. CHARLES has received a newspaper containing an account of the death of Mrs. Stephen Fields, at her home, Northborough, Page county, Iowa, November 17, 1903. Mrs. Fields visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles at the time of the dedication of the Sergeant Floyd memorial monument in Sioux City, a project in which she had deep personal interest. She was the last known direct survivor of the thirty-three men engaged in the Lewis and Clark expedition, the daughter of William Bratton. She was born in 1833 and remembered hearing from her father particulars about that historic trip to the northwest, which started at St. Louis, and ended at the mouth of the Columbia river. Mrs. Fields is survived by her husband and six children, all of whom were able to be with her during her last illness. She had expected to visit the St. Louis exposition next year, and arrangements had been made by the managers for that purpose, as they were particularly interested in the personal relationship she bore to the expedition which added an empire to the nation by the purchase from Bonaparte in 1803, which the exposition is to commemorate. Mrs. Fields was a noble, Christian woman, and died beloved by all who knew her.—*Sioux City Tribune, Dec. 8, 1903.*

FRANK H. CARBERRY was born in Auburn, N. Y., Dec. 11, 1834; he died in Dubuque Nov. 26, 1903. In the spring of 1855 he came to Dubuque and in 1858 began work on a publication called *The Christian Witness*, but soon after became connected with *The Times*. With this paper he retained an interest until 1893, being at one time part owner and for four years editor-in-chief. When in April, 1861, at the breaking out of the civil war, Pres. Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers, the original Governor's Grays at once held a meeting and Mr. Carberry was the first man to sign his name as an enlisted soldier. As a member of Co. I, First Iowa Infantry he was with Gen. Lyon in the Missouri campaign, at Wilson's Creek and other engagements. He served four months and then resumed his work on *The Times*. In 1864 when the President called for 300,000 men, Mr. Carberry again responded and re-enlisted in Co. A, Forty-fourth Iowa Infantry. He served in many battles and was conspicuous at La Grange, Tenn., for his care of wounded soldiers. In 1889 he was appointed government gauger, which position he held until his death. As a journalist he possessed marked ability and was for years special correspondent for Chicago and other city papers.

JACOB M. FUNK was born at Chester, Pa., in 1829; he died at Webster City, Iowa, Nov. 29, 1903. Details of his early life are meager, except that he spent two years in Lewisburg College, Pa., in the early fifties. He came to Hamilton county, Iowa, in 1854, settling on the trackless prairie near what is now the site of Webster City. He resided in that immediate vicinity until his death. He was an active, energetic business man, who accumulated a fortune variously estimated at from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. He was also associated with the late Hon. Walter C. Willson as an active participant in efforts to build railroads centering at Webster City, and to establish promising business enterprises at that point. He was many

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