

**William A. Hunter**

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## NOTABLE DEATHS.

WILLIAM A. HUNTER was born in Carrollton, Ohio, July 8, 1845; he died at Anamosa, Iowa, Sept. 30, 1906. He came with his father's family to Newton, Iowa, in 1857, where he remained until October, 1861, when at the age of 17 he enlisted in Co. B, 13th Iowa Infantry. He went as a drummer boy, but after the battle of Shiloh he expressed a strong desire to lay aside the drum and carry a musket, in which wish he was gratified, thereafter serving in the ranks. He participated in many battles, before Atlanta, at Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, and was with Sherman in the battles before Richmond. He was present at the Grand Review in Washington just before the Union armies were mustered out of the service. He returned to Newton, from which place he went to Iowa College, at Grinnell, and took a part of the regular course. After leaving college he was engaged as a clerk in Newton, for the next year, and afterwards went to Ft. Dodge, where he had an interest in a mercantile establishment. He sold out his business in Ft. Dodge and returned to Newton, after which he engaged in the drug business in Belle Plaine, of which city he served two terms as postmaster. In 1898, the State legislature elected him for a term of two years as warden of the Anamosa penitentiary. He was also re-elected for another term of two years. At the expiration of this last term he was appointed to the same place by the Board of Control, which continued him in this position until the day of his death. From the outset he devoted himself assiduously to the investigation of the many problems involved in prison management, both theoretical and practical. His most successful reforms were the inauguration of the grade system and the banishment of the lock-step. He divided the male inmates into three classes, the intermediate class were accorded certain privileges and the discarding of prison stripes. Then, another grade above this was given still more desirable privileges and clothing practically as unobjectionable as an ordinary citizen's suit. Below these two grades was the class of incorrigibles, with prison stripes and limited privileges. This latter class involved but a small per cent. of the whole number of convicts. His plan worked admirably and gave the prisoners high hopes of restoration to the walks of useful and respectable life. Mr. Hunter became exceedingly useful in his philanthropic efforts to reform those under his charge, and his action met hearty endorsement all over the State and in many other states. He represented the State of Iowa in many conventions throughout the country where he ably presented his views of prison management. It is believed that he was instrumental in discharging many men who were thoroughly reformed and ready once more to take responsible positions in the communities where they lived. He inspired them with hope from the very start of their prison careers and kept them improving until the day of their discharge. He made a complete revolution in the management of the average prison and his example bids fair to be widely copied throughout the United States. *The Anamosa Eureka*, of October 4, 1906, contains a highly appreciative notice of the career, life and death of Warden Hunter from which we have compiled the facts herein stated.

JOHN CLINTON SHRADER was born in Washington county, Ohio, April 24, 1830; he died at Iowa City, Oct. 30, 1906. He graduated from the Marietta (O.) Academy, especially distinguished for his knowledge of the classics. He settled in Keokuk, Iowa, where he studied medicine in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Later he entered the Long Island Hospital in New York City from which he graduated

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