

Frederick Townsend

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NOTABLE DEATHS

EDWARD H. STILES was born at Granby, Connecticut, October 3, 1836, and died at Pasadena, California, May 9, 1921. He removed to Wapello County, Iowa, in 1856 and taught school the following winter. He studied law with Colonel S. W. Summers of Ottumwa, was admitted to the bar in 1857, and formed a partnership with Colonel Summers. In 1858 he was elected a member of the Ottumwa City Council and in 1859 became city counsel. The fall of 1860 he stumped for Douglas but after the Rebellion commenced he became a Republican. In 1863 he was elected representative and served in the Tenth General Assembly. In 1865 he was elected senator and served in the Eleventh General Assembly, but resigned as senator in 1866 as he had been nominated by the Republican state convention for reporter of the Supreme Court, and elected, the first to be elected to that position, his predecessors having been appointed by the court. He was re-elected two years later, served in all four years, and published sixteen volumes of reports. With his predecessor, Thomas F. Withrow, he prepared and published in 1874-79 in four volumes a "Digest of Decisions of the Supreme Court of Iowa," from the earliest territorial times down to the date of publication. In 1883 he was the Republican candidate for Congress in the Sixth District against General James B. Weaver, who defeated him by a few votes. For some twenty years he was the local attorney for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company. In 1886 he removed to Kansas City, Missouri, and for several years was a partner of ex-Governor Thomas T. Crittenden in the practice of law. In 1892 he was appointed master in chancery for the western division of Missouri of the United States Circuit Court. He retired from practice in 1911 and removed to Pasadena, California. After going there he prepared and published in 1916 "Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa," an admirable and carefully written volume of several hundred pages.

FREDERICK TOWNSEND was born at Albia, Iowa, July 1, 1863, and died at his home in that city, November 13, 1918. He attended public school in Albia, the University of Michigan, and was graduated from the Law Department of the latter in 1888. He commenced the practice of law at El Paso, Texas, but in 1890 returned to Albia and practiced there, being the senior member of the firm of Townsend & Miller. He was an able and conscientious lawyer. He was county attorney of Monroe County in 1891 and 1892. In 1899 he was elected senator and served in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth general assemblies. He served on the board of education and on the library board of Albia and was city attorney at the time of his death. He was a Democrat in politics.

Senator Townsend is an example, too infrequently identified in Iowa, of illustrious kinship. His father, John Selby Townsend, was a fine character, a good lawyer, a member of the House in the Fourth General Assembly in 1852, and a district judge in 1853-7 and 1859-62. The mother of Senator Townsend was a daughter of Dr. John D. Elbert, who was a member of the Legislative Council of Iowa Territory for the Fifth and Sixth sessions, being president during the Fifth Session. John D. Elbert was descended from Maryland landed proprietors who held their grants from Lord Calvert, a patent so showing having passed down to Senator Townsend. John D. Elbert was also the father of Leroy S. Elbert, a graduate of West Point in the class of 1861, who rose to the rank of captain but died of disease in 1863; of Benjamin F. Elbert of Des Moines, a member of the Thirteenth General Assembly, 1870; and of Samuel H. Elbert who practiced law at Portsmouth, Nebraska, was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860, was a member of the Nebraska Territorial Council in 1861, was appointed secretary of Colorado Territory in 1862, was a member of Colorado Territorial Legislature in 1869, was appointed governor of that territory in 1873, became a justice of the Supreme Court of the new state in 1876, serving as such until 1889, being chief justice from 1880 to 1883.

DAVID ORLAND STONE was born at Belpre, Washington County, Ohio, February 25, 1864, and died while in attendance at the General Assembly at Des Moines, Iowa, February 18, 1921. Burial was at Hawarden, Iowa. In 1867 he was brought by his parents in their removal to Cherokee County, Iowa, and in 1868 to Calliope, Sioux County. He was educated in common schools and at fourteen years of age commenced to learn the printer's trade in the office of the *Sioux County Herald* at Orange City. He later was employed as a printer at Rock Valley and Hull. In December, 1880, his father established the *Independent* at Calliope and two months later died, when the entire management of the paper devolved upon the son, then only seventeen years old. He thus became the youngest editor in the state. When the Northwestern railway was built into that vicinity in 1882 Hawarden was established, and there sprang up intense rivalry between Calliope and Hawarden. Editor Stone valiantly contended for his home town, but eventually yielded to the inevitable and in 1887 removed the *Independent* to Hawarden. He was postmaster at Hawarden from 1895 to 1899, was a member of the Hawarden Board of Education, and in 1914 was elected representative. He was re-elected in 1916, 1918, and 1920, thus being a member of the Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth general assemblies, and was starting on a very useful service in the Thirty-ninth, being chairman of the Appropriations Committee. His common sense and integrity made possible his successful forty years' editorship of his newspaper and his place of large influence in the House.

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