

## William Vincent Lucas

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## NOTABLE DEATHS

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CHARLES GRANDISON PATTEN was born in Theresa, Jefferson County, New York, November 4, 1832, and died at Charles City, Iowa, November 28, 1921. In 1847 he removed with his parents to near Madison, Wisconsin. He attended rural school and in 1854 was a student for two terms at Delton Academy, Delton, Wisconsin. A few years were then spent in farming and in railroad grading. In November, 1864, he and his wife reached Charles City, Iowa, having driven their stock overland. In 1866 he started a small nursery near Charles City and commenced experiments in horticulture. He soon became convinced that eastern varieties of fruit trees would not successfully withstand the severe and changeable Iowa climate, and was the first to advocate the production of new apples for Iowa conditions, by the planting of seeds and making selections from the products. Because of his advocacy a small appropriation was made by the state through the Iowa State Horticultural Society to create a few scattered experiment stations among interested men. As the years went by these stations dropped out until his was the only one remaining. Patten's Greening, Eastman, Iowa Brilliant, Silas Wilson, University, Iowa Beauty, and Summer Pear apples are all the product of his endeavor. This is said to be by far the largest list of new apples ever to have been produced by any one individual or state institution, and accepted and disseminated by nurserymen. During the later years of his life he produced a large number of apples, plums and pears that are now in the testing stage. As years went on he realized his experiments were becoming so extensive that he would not, in his declining years, be able to complete them, that they were really beyond the scope of any one lifetime, so he sold to the state in 1916, for the use of the Iowa State College of Agriculture, his seventeen acres of experimental grounds, with all plant material thereon, so the experiments might be continued. Honorary recognition was given Mr. Patten by the United States Department of Agriculture, by the Iowa General Assembly, by the St. Louis Exposition in 1904, by the American Pomological Society, by the Jamestown Exposition in 1907, by the Iowa State College of Agriculture, and by the University of Minnesota. He did more than any other person has ever done to breed fruit trees, especially apple trees, that are best suited to Iowa. During nearly all his career he was an active life member of the State Horticultural Society and was at one time its president. He was also a prolific writer on horticultural subjects.

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WILLIAM VINCENT LUCAS was born near Delhi, Carroll County, Indiana, July 3, 1835, and died at Santa Cruz, California, November 11, 1921. His education was obtained in common school. In 1856 he removed to Bremer County, Iowa, and engaged in common labor. After

taking part in the Spirit Lake expedition in 1857 he took up farming in LaFayette Township. He was elected township clerk, served a time as deputy county treasurer and recorder, but returned to farming. On November 26, 1862, he volunteered as a private in Company B, Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, and was made first lieutenant. He was promoted to captain April 11, 1863, and served as such until the regiment was mustered out November 16, 1864. He was elected treasurer of Bremer County in 1865 and served six years. In 1872 he purchased the *Waverly Independent*, but later sold it and bought the *Waverly Republican*. In 1876 he sold that paper and bought the *Mason City Republican*, which he kept until 1883. He was mayor of Mason City for a time. In 1878 he was chief clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives, and again in 1880. The fall of 1880 he was elected state auditor and served during 1881 and 1882, but declined a renomination. In 1883 he removed to South Dakota, located near Chamberlain and engaged in farming. In 1887 he was elected treasurer of Brule County. While still serving in this position he was appointed on the board having charge of the building of the new Soldiers' Home at Hot Springs, South Dakota, and on its completion in 1890 became its first commandant. In 1892, without being a candidate, he was nominated for Congress and elected, and served in the Fifty-third Congress, but was defeated for the next term by the Fusionists. At the end of his service in Congress he was recalled to Hot Springs as commandant where he remained until 1903 when because of failing health he resigned and removed to Santa Cruz, California.

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BENJAMIN F. CLAYTON was born near Carlisle, Kentucky, January 10, 1839, and died at Indianola, Iowa, March 16, 1922. He was the son of William M. and Mary (Adair) Clayton. His parents having died, he removed before reaching manhood to Decatur County, Indiana. In 1873 he came to near Macedonia, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. In 1877 he was elected representative and was re-elected two years later, serving in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth general assemblies. He was elected again in 1883 and served in the Twentieth General Assembly. In 1884, 1885 and 1886 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs. In 1884 Governor Sherman appointed him a delegate to the Farmers' National Congress, at Nashville, Tennessee. At that meeting he was elected secretary, which position he held eight years, when he was elected president, which office he held four years. He was also on the executive committee for nine years. For twenty years he never missed a meeting of the congress. He was a candidate for the nomination of governor at the Republican State Convention at Cedar Rapids, July 1, 1891, and made a creditable run, but the nomination went to H. C. Wheeler. In the same year he removed to Indianola. For four years he served as mayor of that city. He was a trustee of Simpson College for over twenty years and was president of the board a considerable time.

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