

William Green Dows

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NOTABLE DEATHS

WILLIAM GREENE DOWS was born in Clayton County, Iowa, August 12, 1864, and died at a hospital in Iowa City November 25, 1926. The body is to be deposited in a mausoleum in Oak Hill Cemetery, Cedar Rapids. His parents were Stephen L. and Henrietta W. (Safely) Dows. At the time of their son's birth Mr. and Mrs. Dows, whose home was in Cedar Rapids, were temporarily absent in Clayton County where Mr. Dows was superintending railroad construction. William attended public school in Cedar Rapids, Coe College, and Shattuck Military Academy at Fairbault, Minnesota. During his school life he had frequently been with his father, a leading railroad contractor and builder in the state, in his construction camps, and in 1883 he entered regularly his father's employment, beginning with a minor clerkship and eventually becoming a partner. At this time, 1883, he also enlisted as a private in Company C, First Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and began a military career of twenty-five years. He was promoted to first sergeant August 4, 1884; to second lieutenant April 6, 1885; to first lieutenant January 18, 1886; to adjutant of First Regiment January 6, 1890; to major December 21, 1891; to lieutenant colonel April 20, 1897; to colonel April 4, 1898; was mustered into the United States service for the Spanish-American War as colonel of the Forty-ninth Iowa Infantry Volunteers June 2, 1898; commanded his regiment during its service in Cuba and was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, May 13, 1899. Colonel Dows declined further active service, which would have taken him to the Philippines, and returned to his business activities at home. On the reorganization of the Forty-ninth Regiment, Infantry, Iowa National Guard, March 26, 1900, he again became its colonel. The regimental designation was changed to the Fifty-third Regiment, Infantry, November 26, 1902, and Colonel Dows continued as its commander until his resignation January 8, 1909. During all these years when not in active military duty most of his time was devoted to his extensive financial interests. He was president of the Cedar Rapids Electric Light and Power Company, which was later taken over by the Iowa Railway and Light Company, and of which he was also president. That company grew to operate some 500 miles of high tension lines serving light and power to over 100 cities and towns in central Iowa, and electric car lines to several of them. He was a leading stockholder in the corporation owning the *Cedar Rapids Republican*, and in many other business concerns. He was active in politics, for a time was chairman of the Republican County Central Committee, was elected representative in 1897 and re-elected in 1899, serving in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth general assemblies, and was chairman of the Appropriation Committee of the House during the last term, was a delegate to the Republican

National Convention in 1912, and was a member of the Republican State Central Committee during the campaigns of 1918 and 1920. He was a trustee of Coc College for several years, was generous in benevolences, and was a popular and strong personality.

JAMES DEKALB GAMBLE was born at Darby's Run, Piqua County, Ohio, November 8, 1836, and died in Knoxville, Iowa, November 25, 1926. His parents were John and Rachel (O'Neal) Gamble. In 1849 the family removed to Marion County, Iowa, by covered wagon. They settled on land near Knoxville, James attended common school, and when nineteen years old began teaching school, attended McGee College at College Mound, Missouri, read law with Knoxville lawyers and was admitted to the bar in 1860. He began practice at Leon. He enlisted in Company D, Fourth Iowa Infantry, July 6, 1861, as fifth corporal. It is said he was offered the captaincy at that time, but declined. He was soon promoted to third sergeant, to second lieutenant May 1, 1862, and to first lieutenant March 3, 1863. He participated in many battles. At the siege of Vicksburg he was taken dangerously ill. His life despaired of, he was compelled to resign, and he returned home in August, 1863. He acted as a deputy United States marshal in Poweshiek County for a time during the latter part of the war, then began the practice of law at Knoxville. The fall of 1865 he was elected representative and served in the Eleventh General Assembly. He became prominent in Masonry, and was grand master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. and A. M., for two years, 1889 to 1891. The fall of 1894 he was elected county attorney of Marion County, and served during 1895 and 1896. The fall of 1896 he was elected district judge to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of J. H. Henderson. He was sworn in as judge December 10, 1896, succeeding John A. Storey, who was serving by appointment until the vacancy was filled by election. By reason of re-elections Mr. Gamble served as district judge until the end of his term at the close of 1910. After retiring from the bench he devoted most of his time to his personal affairs. Besides being the oldest grand master of the Masonic order in Iowa, he was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and was Commander of John C. Ferguson Post, No. 49, G. A. R., Department of Iowa. He joined church early in life, and was a man of steadfast purpose and high character.

WILLIAM ROBINSON LEWIS was born near Zanesville, Ohio, October 12, 1835, and died at Montezuma, Iowa, January 23, 1927. His parents were John M. and Louisa A. (Ramey) Lewis. In 1845 the family removed to New Castle, Ohio. He attended common school during winters and in summers worked in his father's store or on farms. He studied surveying and began the study of law at New Castle. In 1856 he removed to Southport, Peoria County, Illinois, and worked as a carpenter, teaching school the following winter. The spring of 1857 he removed

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