

**Alex R. Miller**

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## NOTABLE DEATHS

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ALEX R. MILLER was born in Marion Township, Washington County, Iowa, February 6, 1865, and died in Washington, February 6, 1927. His parents were Peter P. and Barbara Sommer Miller. Alex attended country school, worked on his father's farm, learned the carpenter's trade, attended the Eastern Iowa Normal School at Columbus Junction, and the Washington Academy, taught country school, taught singing school, read law with Dewey & Eicher of Washington and was admitted to the bar January 18, 1893. He had only begun practicing when on March 15, 1893, he became part owner of the *Washington Democrat* and began his newspaper career with W. N. Hood as his partner. On the death of the latter in October, 1898, Mr. Miller became sole owner of the paper. In 1900 he was the First District candidate for presidential elector on the Democratic ticket. From 1904 to 1908 he was the First District member of the Democratic State Central Committee. In July, 1914, he was appointed by President Wilson postmaster at Washington. His work becoming so heavy he sold his newspaper during the latter part of his service as postmaster, which service continued for eight years. In 1926 he was the candidate on the Democratic ticket for governor of the state. He was a versatile writer with an engaging style, sparkling with kindly humor. This facility of expression coupled with a good platform presence made him a successful public speaker. For several years he was regularly employed as a lecturer by the Redpath-Vawter Chautauqua and Lyceum Bureau, and also filled hundreds of speaking engagements on all sorts of occasions. He was a member of the Methodist church, a Sunday School teacher, and a citizen of fine character and usefulness.

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SOLOMON FRANCIS PROUTY was born near Delaware, Ohio, January 17, 1854, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, July 16, 1927. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Prouty, were removing with their family across country to Iowa in 1855, when Mrs. Prouty died en route. The father with his children located at Knoxville. As a boy Solomon worked on farms in summers and attended common school in winters. He entered Central University, Pella, in 1870 and attended two years, attended Simpson College, Indianola, two years, then returned to Central University from which he was graduated in 1877. The fall of 1876, during his junior year in college, he won first prize in the state oratorical contest at Cedar Rapids, and the following spring he represented Iowa in the inter-state oratorical contest at Madison, Wisconsin, where he won second prize. For the next four years he was professor of Latin in Central University. During that time, in 1879, when only twenty-five years old, he was elected representative from Marion County and served in the Eighteenth General Assembly, in which he advocated abolishing railway passes and was active in legislation along educational and progres-

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