

## Frederick Marion Hubbell

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## NOTABLE DEATHS

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FREDERICK MARION HUBBELL was born at Huntington, Fairfield County, Connecticut, January 17, 1839, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, November 11, 1930. The body was laid away in the family tomb in Woodland Cemetery. His parents were Francis Burritt and Augusta (Church) Hubbell. He was educated in their near-by district school, supplemented by three years in Birmingham, now Derby, High School. In 1855 he came to Des Moines and the next day after he arrived secured a clerical position in the office of P. M. Casady, receiver of the United States land office. In 1856 he went to Sioux City, taking a similar position in the land office there. Later he acted as deputy clerk of court, read law and on April 24, 1858, was admitted to the bar in Sioux City. In 1860 he helped organize Sioux County, but in 1861 returned to Des Moines and took employment in the law firm of P. M. Casady and Jefferson S. Polk and the next year became the junior member of the firm. When Judge Casady retired in 1865 the firm became Polk & Hubbell, and so remained until 1887, during which time it devoted its attention chiefly to financial enterprises and the industrial development of Des Moines. They took over and extended the first street railway in the city, they promoted the building of the railroad from Des Moines to Ames, and the building of the railroad to Adel and Fonda, they led in getting the Wabash Railroad into Des Moines, they built the Des Moines Union Railroad, and the Des Moines Water Works, as well as handled many other large enterprises. In 1867 Mr. Hubbell led in organizing the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa. He served the first year as its secretary, was its president from 1888 to 1907, and from that time until his death, was chairman of its board of trustees. After the dissolution of the firm of Polk & Hubbell in 1887 Mr. Hubbell confined his activities principally to real estate investments in Des Moines, and to their development, being the head of the firm of F. M. Hubbell, Son & Co., Inc., Real Estate. Mr. Hubbell was a great business man, having judgment, foresight, and confidence in Des Moines. He did more for Des Moines in a business way than any other man, and is reputed to have built the greatest personal fortune in Iowa. He was the moving spirit in the building and maintaining of the Home for the Aged in Des Moines and was its president from the time of its organization in 1894 until his death.

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GEORGE HAMILTON VAN HOUTEN was born at Rockport, Missouri, February 24, 1847, and died at Lenox, Iowa, October 17, 1930. Burial was in the cemetery at Lenox. His parents removed with their family to Madison County, Iowa, in 1848, to Cass County in 1852 and to Lexington, now an abandoned place about four miles northeast of Bedford, in Taylor County, Iowa, in 1855. He attempted to enlist in the Union Army several times in 1863, but was rejected because of his youth, but

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