

## William Peters Hepburn

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WILLIAM PETER HEPBURN

## NOTABLE DEATHS

WILLIAM PETERS HEPBURN was born in Wellsville, Columbiana County, Ohio, November 4, 1833, and died at his home in Clarinda, Iowa, February 7, 1916. His father, who was a physician, when away from home at New Orleans heroically helping to fight a scourge of cholera prevailing there, died before the son's birth. The widowed mother, married George S. Hampton, and with young Hepburn they came in 1841 to a farm eight miles northwest of Iowa City. In 1843 they removed to Iowa City, Mr. Hampton becoming clerk of the Supreme Court and Mrs. Hampton principal of the female department of Mechanics Academy. Here young Hepburn had, during intervals from work for three or four years, the advantage of attending good private schools, one being taught by James Harlan, later United States senator. In 1849 he began work as an apprentice in the printing office of the *Iowa City Republican*, the editor being Dr. S. M. Ballard. He pursued this employment over three years and became an efficient workman. In after life he often said his education was obtained in common schools and in a printing office. In 1853 he read law with William Penn Clark for a year. He then spent a year in Chicago with a prominent law firm, was admitted to the bar and returned to Iowa City in 1855, was married and in February, 1856, removed to Marshalltown and commenced practice. In the spring of 1856 he attended at Iowa City the first Republican state convention held in Iowa, and the political opinions of his lifetime became fixed. In the fall of 1856 he was elected prosecuting attorney for Marshall County, having run on the Republican ticket. In December of that year he was elected one of the clerks of the Iowa House of Representatives, it being the last session held in the old Capitol at Iowa City. In January, 1858, he was elected chief clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives, that being the first general assembly meeting at Des Moines. In the fall of 1858 he was elected district attorney for the then Eleventh Judicial District, consisting of eleven counties in northern Iowa. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago. He served as district attorney from January, 1859, until August, 1861, when he resigned to enter the Union Army. Having been authorized by Governor Kirkwood, he raised a company of cavalry which was mustered in as Company B, Second Iowa Cavalry, and was elected captain. He was advanced to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, serving much of the time on the staffs of Generals Sheridan, Rosecrans and others. He served at different times as a judge-advocate of general courts-martial, and also as inspector of cavalry. In 1864 he was in command of a cavalry brigade. From the fall of 1864 to June, 1867, he resided in Memphis, Tennessee, being engaged in the practice of law and in business. On the latter date he removed to Clarinda, Iowa, to become part owner and the editor of the *Clarinda*

*Herald.* That fall he went on the stump for the Republican ticket and soon acquired political acquaintance and leadership. He also soon opened a law office, abandoned his newspaper work, and until he went to Congress in 1881, his law business was active and became important and profitable. In 1872 he advocated the election of Horace Greeley, but soon thereafter was again within the ranks of the Republican party. In 1876 he was a presidential elector-at-large, elected on the Republican ticket. He had become an acknowledged power on the stump. In 1880 he was nominated on the three hundred and eighty-fifth ballot by the Republicans of his district for Congress. He was elected and was re-elected to the two succeeding congresses, but in 1886 was defeated by Albert R. Anderson in a very memorable campaign, the issue being largely railroad legislation. In 1888 he was again a delegate to the Republican national convention and also was again a presidential elector-at-large. From 1888 to 1893 he was solicitor of the treasury. The fall of 1892 he was again elected to Congress and re-elected regularly to the seven subsequent congresses. In 1896 he was for the third time a delegate to the Republican national convention. In the election of 1908 he was defeated for Congress by W. D. Jamieson. Retiring from Congress in March, 1909, he opened a law office in Washington in December of that year and for the few following years had a number of important cases. Colonel Hepburn's great work was accomplished as a congressman. He was a constructive statesman. He was the author of the "Hepburn Law" which prohibited rebates and discriminations by railroads, also of the "Pure Food and Public Health Act" of the Fifty-ninth Congress, both being measures of paramount importance. He was a great political orator and was perhaps the ablest political debater of his generation. Generally progressive in policies he was "standpat" in principles. Without sham or pretense, not resorting to the arts of the demagogue, he was led by those higher motives that reflect purity of purpose.

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GRENVILLE MELLEEN DODGE was born at Danvers, Massachusetts, April 12, 1831, and died at his home in Council Bluffs, Iowa, January 3, 1916. He was graduated from the Military University at Norwich, Vermont, in 1850 as a civil engineer. He began work in 1851 as a civil engineer for the Illinois Central and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad companies. In 1853 he was appointed assistant engineer of the Mississippi & Missouri, now the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. During 1853 and 1854 he was on the survey between Davenport and Council Bluffs and on into the Indian country as far as the Platte River, thus beginning the surveys for the first Pacific Railway system. In 1854 he took up a claim in Nebraska, but was so harrassed by the Indians he returned to Council Bluffs in 1855 and opened a banking and real estate office. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he went to Washington for Governor Kirkwood to arrange for the arming and equipping of the troops of the state. He raised the Fourth Iowa In-

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