

Samued Marcellus Stouffer

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NOTABLE DEATHS

JOHN SUMNER RUNNELLS was born at Effingham, New Hampshire, July 30, 1844, and died at Chocorua, in the county of his birth, July 11, 1929. His parents were John and Huldah (Staples) Runnells. In 1850 the family removed to the nearby village of Tamworth. During his boyhood he was under the tutelage of his father who was a Baptist minister. For two years he attended the New Hamilton Academy, and was graduated from Amherst College in 1865 with the degree of A. B. Following this he taught school, first at Rochester, New Hampshire, and then at Dover, meanwhile studying law with local attorneys. Samuel Merrill, who was elected governor of Iowa the fall of 1867, had been intimately acquainted with the Runnells family in New Hampshire and had asked John S. to become his private secretary, so in January, 1868, the young man appeared in Des Moines in that capacity. Early in 1869 he resigned, having been appointed United States consul to Tunstall, England. Previous to his departure he married Helen R. Baker, daughter of Adjutant General N. B. Baker. In 1871 he returned to Des Moines and for a short time was on the editorial staff of the *Iowa State Register*, but in the same year was admitted to the bar and in 1872 joined with C. H. Gatch and Thomas S. Wright in the firm of Gatch, Wright & Runnells. The fall of 1874 he was elected reporter of the Supreme Court and soon thereafter withdrew from the firm. In 1877 he formed a partnership with Galusha Parsons which continued for ten years, the firm obtaining an extensive practice, especially as corporation attorneys. During this time Mr. Runnells joined with J. S. Clarkson in helping secure the building of the Burlington and Wabash railroads into Des Moines. He also became active in state and national politics, being chairman of the Republican State Central Committee from 1879 to 1881, was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1880, and was the Iowa member of the Republican National Committee from 1880 to 1884. He was United States district attorney for Iowa from 1881 to 1885, resigning his position as reporter for the Supreme Court on his appointment as district attorney. In 1887 he became general counsel for the Pullman Company and removed to Chicago. He was president of that corporation from 1905 to 1911, and chairman of the Board after that date. He had a winning personality, was a brilliant orator, and an able lawyer.

SAMUED MARCELLUS STOUFFER was born in Ogle County, Illinois, November 1, 1865, and died at Daytona Beach, Florida, October 11, 1929. Burial was at Sac City, Iowa. His parents were Andrew and Lucinda (Rhinehart) Stouffer who removed with their family to near State Center, Iowa, when Samuel was three years old. He attended common school and was graduated from Western College, Toledo, in 1890 with the degree of A. B. For two years he taught school, then served an

apprenticeship on the *Toledo Chronicle* and in 1893 he and his brother Frank bought *The Sac Sun*, and from then until his death he was its editor. In 1923 Frank Stouffer retired and the firm became S. M. Stouffer & Son, the junior member being Samuel Andrew Stouffer. This partnership was supplanted recently by the Sac Sun Company with S. M. Stouffer as president and Ben J. Pruess, secretary and business manager. After 1909 Mr. Stouffer's health was frail and it was only by care and courage that he accomplished his remarkable labors. Under his leadership and editorship *The Sac Sun* became one of the best country weeklies in Iowa or the West. His activities were not confined altogether to his newspaper, but he took an active part in civic and church affairs. He was a Republican, an ardent temperance worker and an active member of the church, being for twenty-three years superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school, was president of the Northwest Iowa Layman's Association, and was a delegate to General Conference in 1916. Industry, well balanced judgment, courage, love of his profession, and devotion to duty were among his marked characteristics.

FRANCIS M. ZIEBACH was born near Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, November 23, 1830, and died at Wessington Springs, South Dakota, September 29, 1929, being nearly ninety-nine years old. When a boy he learned the printers' trade, and in 1853 went to Madison, Wisconsin, but in 1855 returned home and founded the *Lewisburg Argus*. In 1857 he shipped a printing equipment to Sargents Bluff, Iowa, and with A. S. Cummings founded the *Western Independent*, which they suspended in 1858. Mr. Ziebach then removed the material to Sioux City and established the *Sioux City Register*. In 1862 he sold the paper and removed to Yankton, Dakota Territory, where he started the *Weekly Dakotan*. In 1864 he went to Dubuque and with Patrick Robb and M. M. Ham bought the *Dubuque Herald*. In 1868 he returned to Sioux City and again became editor of the *Sioux City Register*. During this stay in Sioux City he served for a time as mayor, and also as register of the United States land office. About 1872 he returned to Yankton and was a citizen of Dakota Territory, and later of the state of South Dakota, for the remainder of his life, serving in the territorial legislature, and holding several appointive positions under the federal land department, retiring in 1924.

PERCY L. PRENTIS was born near Rich Valley, Wabash County, Indiana, July 28, 1870, and died in Detroit, Michigan, June 22, 1928. His parents, Xavier Thomas and Rebecca Glasier Prentis, migrated with their family to Delphos, Ringgold County, Iowa, in 1880. Becoming an orphan in 1884, Percy went to Bedford, Ohio, where he lived with relatives. He was graduated from high school there in 1887, from Euclid Avenue Business College, Cleveland, in 1888, and later from Cleveland

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