

## Samuel A. Converse

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## NOTABLE DEATHS

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JOHN HERRIOTT was born at Herriottville, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, October 20, 1844, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, September 24, 1918. Burial was at Stuart, Iowa. The death of his father when he was eight and of his mother when he was fifteen years old deprived him of early schooling. At fifteen he entered a blacksmith shop in Pittsburgh, remaining there until the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted in the First Pennsylvania Cavalry and served three years, being in seventy-three engagements, including the battles of Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. The capture in his mother's dooryard of a runaway slave by a Virginia sheriff, and the war and his participation in it, helped cause him to take great interest in public matters. He left the service broken in health and never fully recovered. In 1866 he came to Scott County, Iowa, bought a farm and lived on it until 1873 when he removed to Stuart, where he entered the retail drug and book business which he continued until his death. He took an active part in organizing the town government of Stuart. In 1875 he was elected treasurer of Guthrie County, and served four years. In 1894 he was elected treasurer of state and was twice re-elected, serving six years. He gave great attention to his duties and became an authority on assessments and their equalization. In 1901 he was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. The convention, however, nominated him for lieutenant-governor, to which office he was elected and was re-elected two years later, serving in that capacity from January, 1902, until January, 1907. He was a man of ability, convictions, courage, and integrity.

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SAMUEL A. CONVERSE was born at Marborough, New Hampshire, January 3, 1843, and died at Cresco, Iowa, May 29, 1919. In 1848 he was brought by his parents, Willard and Hannah White Converse, to Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, and in 1856 to Winneshiek County, Iowa, where his father entered government land. Young Converse attended country school, taught school some when young, and then took up farming. In 1880 he removed into Howard County, continued farming, and became an importer and breeder of Polled Angus cattle. He was active in the Grange, and in the various farmers' co-operative movements, such as the Alliance Mercantile Association, and the Farmers Mutual Insurance Association, both of Cresco. In 1883 he was elected representative after a bitter campaign, the issue being prohibition, he being an ardent advocate of that reform. He was re-elected in 1885 and during his second term, the Twenty-first General Assembly, was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. In 1887 he was elected senator to fill a vacancy caused

by redistricting and served as such in the Twenty-second General Assembly. He there ardently and ably supported the railroad reform measures that Governor Larrabee was championing. He was president of the First National Bank of Cresco from the time of its organization in 1893 until his death. He was a very useful citizen in his home community, having good judgment and integrity, was greatly trusted by the people and was imbued with the spirit of helpfulness to others.

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JOHN HENRY SMITH was born in Albany County, New York, March 19, 1827, and died at Camanche, Iowa, August 26, 1919. On reaching young manhood he removed to Michigan and later to Illinois. He was a locomotive engineer on the line that afterwards became the Chicago & Northwestern. In 1852 he quit railroading and located in Center Township, Clinton County, Iowa, and engaged in farming. He was a member of the Clinton County Board of Supervisors when it was first organized, which was just previous to the war. He recruited Company A, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, and was appointed its captain October 17, 1861. The Sixteenth became a part of the famous "Crocker Brigade." As commander of his company he participated in several very important battles, and was cited for bravery and skill on different occasions. At Atlanta, Georgia, July 22, 1864, he, with most of his company, was captured and for some time after he was confined in Confederate prisons, but escaped, visited his family which then lived in Lyons, Clinton County, and then rejoined his regiment. On February 18, 1865, he was promoted to major, and on May 11, 1865, to lieutenant-colonel. He was in the grand review at Washington, May 24, 1865, and soon thereafter resigned his commission, returned home, sold his farm and engaged in the grain business at Camanche. He was elected senator in 1865 and served in the Eleventh and Twelfth general assemblies. Public life did not appeal to him. For awhile he was an assistant United States assessor. In later life he followed market gardening.

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JACOB S. MCKEMEY was born in Jefferson County, Iowa, September 7, 1854, and died at Fairfield, December 20, 1919. He was educated in the public schools of Fairfield, supplemented by a course at Iowa College, Grinnell. He read law with Stubbs & Leggett of Fairfield, was admitted to the bar in 1877 and at once formed a partnership with Judge Leggett, which continued forty years. They soon acquired an extensive practice. Mr. McKemey attained high rank as a lawyer. He had unusually good judgment, was a good business man and a man of affairs. He was active in politics, but declined political position for himself. During the war he was the leader in his county in Red Cross, Council of Defense, local food administration and other war activities. On his death it is said he was the citizen most widely related to the general activities of Fairfield.

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