Lorenzo S. Coffin

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NOTABLE DEATHS

LORENZO S. COFFIN was born in Alton, New Hampshire, April 9, 1823; he died at his home, "Willow Edge," near Fort Dodge, Iowa, January 17, 1915. He received all possible education from the rural schools of his boyhood day, and then attended Wolfboro academy. When twenty-four years of age he went to Oberlin, Ohio, and entered the preparatory department of Oberlin College. After an attendance of eighteen months, he taught in Geauga Seminary, Geauga county. In 1855 he removed to Iowa, settling near Fort Dodge. For years he was a circuit rider. For some time he was editor of the agricultural department of the *Fort Dodge Messenger*. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in Company I, Thirty-Second Iowa Infantry, and served as private, sergeant and chaplain until the close of the war. He returned to his farm near Fort Dodge and there made his home until his death. From 1883 to 1888 he was a member of the Iowa State Railroad Commission and ever maintained an interest in railroad men and their welfare. In 1891 he built Hope Hall for the benefit of convicts recently released from prison, but the project was abandoned when the penitentiary at Anamosa was changed into a reformatory. The property was transferred to the W. C. T. U. and used as a home for unfortunate girls until the buildings were accidentally burned to the ground. Mr. Coffin was for many years an active member of the State Agricultural Society and prominent in agricultural and stock-breeding pursuits. In 1906 he was candidate for Governor of Iowa on the Prohibition ticket. His greatest work was the securing of Iowa legislation compelling equipment with automatic brake and coupler equipment the railroad cars in Iowa, and of national law of the same nature. He founded a railroad men's home near Chicago and was the originator of the temperance movement among railroad men, working always actively in its behalf.

LOREN S. TYLER was born in Boston, Mass., April 21, 1845; he died in Los Angeles, California, October 13, 1914. He removed to Keokuk in 1856. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted as drummer boy in Company H, Fifteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out at Vicksburg, December 31, 1863. He re-enlisted as veteran in Company H, Fifteenth Veteran Infantry, and participated in all the battles in which his regiment engaged. He was mustered out on July 24, 1865. He returned to Keokuk and engaged with his father in the furniture business. In 1875 he engaged in the auction and commission business with I. L. Brown, under the firm name of Brown & Tyler. In 1872 he was mustered into Torrence Post, No. 2, G. A. R., and held various offices.