John M. Ramsey
minded citizen, influential in his section of the state; after retire-
ment from business removed to California, where three sons are 
living—George, a Los Angeles banker, Gordon, a lawyer there, 
Ewart, residing at San Mateo, and the only daughter, Mrs. William 
del Valle (Vina Saunders), has been in California with her family,
but soon will remove to Seattle, Washington.

Seth Benjamin Durant, farmer, teacher and legislator, died at 
his home in Madison township, Hancock county, Iowa, January 22,
1947; born in Madison township just west of the township school,
within one-half mile of the present home place, January 9, 1873, of 
pioneer parents, John and Matilda Durant; educated in the rural 
schools and at Garner business college; at age of seventeen took the 
teacher's examination and was given a certificate to teach, which 
he followed for twelve years; united in marriage to Edith A. How-
land, of Madison township, November 5, 1902, and to them were 
born two daughters, Doris and Velma, and two sons were adopted, 
Donald and Duane Leo; continued upon the farm since 1903, and 
assisted in sponsoring a rural telephone line, a farmer's co-operative 
elevator, the Farm Bureau and the Farmer's Mutual telephone com-
pany; energetic and active in community affairs; served as a mem-
ber of the Iowa House of Representatives in the Thirty-sixth Gen-
eral Assembly, the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth and Forty-fifth extra 
sessions; served as school treasurer twenty years, chairman of the 
official board of the Calvary Baptist church at Forest City, Iowa,
and as an officer or director of numerous local organizations.

John M. Ramsey, publisher and legislator, died February 23,
1944, at Clarksville, Iowa; born February 25, 1869 at Clarksville,
residing there his entire life; educated in the local schools, graduat-
ed from the high school and a private college; learned the printer's 
trade early in life, and almost continuously since had been connect-
ed with the Clarksville Star, of which he had long been the pub-
lisher; served as town clerk, assessor, and Butler county treasurer;
was senator from the Thirty-ninth Iowa district consisting of But-
ler and Bremer counties in the Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-
second extra sessions; also was a member of the House of Repre-
sentatives from Butler county in the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and 
Fortieth extra sessions; at time of death was serving as justice 
of the peace at Clarksville; married to Della Shafer September 30,
1893 and at time of death was divorced, with two daughters sur-
viving, Mrs. Gay Jackson of Clarksville and Mrs. Lavon Anderson 
of Des Moines, and two sons preceding the father in death; a 
member of the Presbyterian church and of the Knights of Pythias 
and Odd Fellow orders.