

Cyrus S. Ranck

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work. He removed to Oskaloosa, Iowa, in February, 1855, and served as deputy postmaster and postmaster until 1861. He also published the *Oskaloosa Times* for a year during this period. In 1861 he located in Des Moines and after a few years in the banking business joined Wesley Redhead in founding the book and stationery house of Redhead & Wellslager which continued until 1883. For several years after withdrawing from this prominent establishment Mr. Wellslager was obliged to rest and recuperate. In 1887 he again entered the banking business and continued his interest therein until his death. He was connected with the Des Moines National Bank from 1888 to 1894, serving as president, and in 1895 became stockholder and director of the Central State Bank. He also helped organize and maintained connection with other banking institutions. He was instrumental in securing an order from the Comptroller of the Currency, making Des Moines a reserve city for national banking institutions.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS McIVOR was born in Cheraw, S. C., April 30, 1860; he died at Tokyo, Japan, February 10, 1915. He was a graduate of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., in 1882. From 1882 to 1885 he attended Harvard Law School. In 1885 he began the practice of law in Cedar Rapids. He was associated with the Democratic party and served as city counsel during the years 1891 and 1892. He was prominent in the campaign for Horace Boies as governor and served as a member of the Governor's military staff for both terms. In 1893 President Cleveland appointed him United States Consul General and Judge of the United States Court at Yokohama, Japan. After retiring in 1897 he returned to America and soon thereafter was commissioned by the Educational Society of the Congregational church to negotiate with the Japanese government regarding title to valuable properties owned by them in Japan. Since that time he has been counsel and director of various American, English and Japanese corporations. He was appointed holder of the protectorate over the Chinese in Japan during the Chinese-Japanese war in 1894 and 1895, and received from the empress of China the decoration of the Chinese Order of the Double Dragon.

CYRUS S. RANCK was born in Union county, Pa., March 31, 1845; he died May 25, 1915, at Battle Creek, Mich., while temporarily absent from his home in Iowa City. He removed with his parents to Illinois in 1855, shortly thereafter to Iowa and then back to Illinois. He attended the public schools of Illinois and Iowa, studied four years in the Baptist college at Burlington, graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa in 1871 and was admitted to the bar the same year. He began the practice

of law in Iowa City in 1874. In 1886 he associated in partnership with M. J. Wade, later for a time with Stephen Bradley, and at the time of his death was associated with Frank F. Messer. Until 1896 he was a Democrat in politics and served as city attorney for two terms and as chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee in 1895 and 1896. Since 1897 he had supported the Republican ticket. He served as representative in the Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-fifth General Assemblies and as senator in the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-sixth Extra and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies. He was trustee of the Iowa School for the Deaf for seven years.

SAMUEL DRUET was born in Piqua, Ohio, August 20, 1844; he died at Anamosa, Iowa, May 2, 1915. He was left an orphan at an early age, and in 1856 removed with his brother's family to Bloomfield, Iowa, where he was educated in the common schools. As a young man he learned the tinner's trade. At the outbreak of the Civil war he returned to Ohio, and in May, 1864, enlisted in the 161st Ohio Infantry, serving until his regiment was mustered out. In 1865 he returned to Bloomfield and engaged for a time in the tin and hardware business. After taking a regular course in medicine he began the practice in 1874 and followed that profession for twenty-two years at Marysville. In 1895 he was elected state senator from the Monroe-Marion district and served through the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-sixth Extra and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies. In June, 1898, he was appointed prison physician for the penitentiary at Anamosa and held that position for twelve years. He returned to his practice at Anamosa, but about a year ago failing health forced him to retire.

GEORGE HARTLEY PURDY was born in Ontario, Canada, August 27, 1866; he died at Mason City, Iowa, April 24, 1915. He removed in 1869 to Mason City, where he attended the public schools. He also took the course in civil engineering at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon. After leaving college he removed to Spencer and engaged in the grocery business for ten years. In 1899 he returned to Mason City and took charge of his father's farm, to scientifically develop it. About four years before his death he purchased a farm near Rockford and gave his attention to fruit and stock raising. He served as mayor and councilman of Rockford. He was elected representative from Floyd county in the Thirty-sixth General Assembly; was appointed chairman of the committee on horticulture and to membership on the committees on appropriations, agriculture and other committees of importance. Ill-health forced him to return to his home before the close of the session and his death occurred soon after its adjournment.

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