

John A. Crookham

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GEORGE A. STONE was born in Schoharie, New York, Oct. 13, 1836; he died at Burlington, Iowa, May 26, 1901. His family came west in 1839, and settled in Washington county, Iowa. After attending the country schools, he went to Mt. Pleasant and entered college. In 1851 he was made cashier of the First National Bank of Mt. Pleasant. At the outbreak of the civil war he assisted in recruiting Co. F, First Iowa Infantry, of which he was made first lieutenant. He bore his part in the battle of Wilson's Creek. At his muster-out he was appointed major of our Fourth Cavalry. In August, 1862, he was promoted to the colonelcy of the Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry. He was in active service during the war, and with Gen. Sherman in his famous "march to the sea," in which he commanded a brigade. He received the surrender of Columbia, S. C., planting the stars and stripes over that city. At the close of the war he was brevetted brigadier general for gallant and meritorious service. He returned to Mt. Pleasant and resumed his position in the bank. After several years he removed to Ottumwa, and later to Rulo, Neb., where he was engaged in merchandising. President Cleveland appointed him National Bank Examiner for Iowa, which position he retained until a short time since, when failing health compelled him to resign. His army record was a proud one, and his business career gave evidence of large ability and the strictest integrity. He was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and of the Grand Army of the Republic. His remains were taken to his home at Mt. Pleasant, where he was buried with military honors.

JOHN A. L. CROOKHAM was born in Jackson county, Ohio, October 29, 1817; he died at Oskaloosa, Iowa, May 2, 1901. He remained at home on his father's farm until his majority, presumably with only such educational advantages as were afforded by the district school. He settled in Darwin, Illinois, where he taught school for three years, during which time he studied law. He first visited Iowa in 1845, but having contracted fever and ague, went back to Illinois, where he taught school another year. Returning to this State in 1847, he settled in Oskaloosa, where he resided up to the time of his death. Judge Crookham was always remarkable for his activity in business and politics. He was an important factor in railroad development in his section of the State. He also gave liberally of his means in the founding of Penn College in Oskaloosa. Under the old law which went out in 1860 he was elected county judge, serving from 1851 to 1855. At that time the "county judge" transacted nearly all the business which is now confided to the board of supervisors and county auditor. He represented "proud Mahaska" in the State Senate in the sessions of 1864-66. He especially distinguished himself in securing the adoption of the constitutional amendment giving the ballot to colored men—the "striking out of the word white." He introduced the bill granting aid to the families of Iowa soldiers in the Union army. It is stated that he signed the Washingtonian pledge when he was a child of eight years and kept it to the end of his long and useful life.

JAMES D. SEEBERGER was born in New York City, November 4, 1836; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, April 19, 1901. His family removed to Wooster, Ohio, the year after his birth. He attended the public schools until his fourteenth year, when he entered upon an apprenticeship to learn the mercantile business. During the period of his service he was distinguished for his energy and fidelity to the interests of his employers, which led to his rapid promotion. The year 1860 found his health so seriously impaired that he went to Idaho where he resided four years. Returning to Chicago he remained some months with his brother, Anthony F. Seeberger. In 1865 he came to Des Moines. He entered into a partnership in the hardware business which continued until 1872, when he became sole proprietor

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