

James D. Seeberger

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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

of the establishment. Through his hard work and remarkably sagacious management he built up one of the most flourishing wholesale business houses in the State—his annual sales amounting to \$1,000,000. Mr. Thomas Hatton, an old resident of the capital city, said of Mr. Seeberger: "As a business man he stood at the very head, commanding the respect and confidence of all who came in contact with him. . . . He was the soul of honor, and generous almost to a fault." He was a liberal giver for religious and charitable purposes, warmly attached to his friends, a man of the highest personal character, one of the most widely known and highly respected pioneer merchants in the State.

RICHARD P. MILLER was born on his father's farm just outside of the city of Fort Madison, Iowa, May 27, 1855; he died in Keokuk, May 11, 1901. (He was the son of the late Hon. Daniel F. Miller who sat for the First district in the national House of Representatives in the second session of the thirty-first congress (1850-51), and who was one of the members from Lee county in the twenty-fifth general assembly of this State (1894)—the last appearance of that distinguished Iowan in public life.) He studied law in his father's office and for many years was his partner in the practice of his profession. An affection of the vocal organs led to his quitting legal work for some fifteen years, during which time he was associated with his brother, Harry C., in the grain business, with headquarters at Fort Madison, Kansas City and Omaha. But he returned to Keokuk five or six years ago and opened a law office in connection with his brother, Daniel F. Miller, Jr. In the spring of 1899 he was elected judge of the superior court, in which position he was rapidly acquiring a wide reputation. The public journals of Keokuk paid elaborate tributes to his memory, and incidentally to the distinguished public career of his father, the statesman and pioneer lawmaker. The death of Judge Richard P. Miller, at the early age of 46, resulted from injuries received in a collision of his carriage with a trolley car.

JAMES H. BURCH was born at Lyons, New York, March 27, 1836; he died at Dubuque, Iowa, May 3, 1901. He was educated in the public schools, which he left at the age of fourteen to carve out his own fortune. At first a clerk in a drug store at Portage, Wisconsin, he rose to a partnership in the business, but left his work in 1859 to engage as a bookkeeper in a lumber manufacturing establishment at Necedah, in that state. In 1869 he removed to Dubuque, where he became identified with its most important interests. He was twice chosen to the mayoralty, on one occasion by a unanimous vote, having no opposition whatever. He was one of the board of directors and president of the Second National Bank, a leading factor in advancing the railroad enterprises of that section of the State, the largest stockholder in the Hotel Julien, director in the Bridge Company, a director and treasurer of the City Gas Company, etc., etc. "The sympathetic and unselfish side of his life was shown in the interest which he always took in enterprises for the public good." He was one of the organizers of the Findley hospital, a director in the Home for the Friendless, one of the trustees of the Y. M. C. A., and member of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library. In all these directions he was a leader, a man of the largest and best influence. The Dubuque papers paid high tributes to his memory.

RICHARD CAMPBELL was born in Oneida county, New York, August 21, 1825; he died at Independence, Iowa, March 26, 1901. He settled in Independence in 1856, since which time until his death he was one of the leading business men of that thriving town, becoming its wealthiest citizen. One of the founders of the First National Bank of Independence, he held

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