

Herman H. Fairall

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attorney of Vinton for several terms. When Judge L. G. Kinne resigned from the District Bench of the Seventeenth Judicial District, Judge Gilchrist was appointed by Governor Larrabee to the position and served with marked success. At the expiration of the term he retired to the practice and remained active until 1907.

DR. SEAMAN ARTHUR KNAPP was born in Essex county, New York, December 16, 1833; he died at Washington, D. C., on April 1, 1911. He was educated at Troy Conference Academy, Poultney, Vermont, and at Union College, Schenectady, New York, from which he graduated in 1856. The next year he became a teacher of mathematics and Greek in the Collegiate Institute at Fort Edward, New York, and in 1860 became interested in its management. In 1863 he purchased the academy at Poultney, renamed it Poultney Female College, and for two years successfully conducted it. He then suffered a reverse of health, closed out his interest in New York and removed to Iowa to a farm he purchased near Vinton in Benton county. He served as pastor of the First Methodist Church in Vinton for two years and as superintendent of the Iowa School for the Blind for six years. He again retired to his farm and also engaged in agricultural writing. In the spring of 1880 Dr. Knapp began his work on the faculty of the State Agricultural College at Ames, and was in charge of the Department of Agriculture. In 1883 he served as president. In 1885 he established some demonstration farms on lands in southwestern Louisiana in which he was interested, and thereby became interested in the increase of agricultural products then in cultivation and in the adaptation to the South of plants and products not receiving attention there. In 1898 the Department of Agriculture sent him to the Orient to examine agricultural resources and he brought therefrom several new varieties of products, and for their introduction he established farms. In 1901 he was again sent to Japan, China and India, and upon returning he organized in southern States and among the farmers a system of co-operation for the demonstration of methods of culture of the grains he introduced, and for all modern agricultural products and processes. For the carrying out of these policies he induced the general Government to appropriate \$350,000, and the General Educational Board and other private persons to donate the further sum of \$213,000. Dr. Knapp's remains were returned to Ames and after a funeral service in the Assembly room of the Agricultural Hall of the College were interred in the college cemetery.

HERMAN H. FAIRALL was born in Alleghany county, Maryland, January 23, 1860; he died at Iowa City, Iowa, February 2, 1912. He was graduated in August, 1861, from Jefferson College, Connors-

burg, Pa. He at once united with the Pittsburg Conference and was stationed near the Virginia border until 1864. In 1865 he was transferred to Upper Iowa Conference and was pastor at Waterloo, Monticello and Decorah before 1871, when he resigned and traveled through Palestine and adjacent territory. He contributed letters to a Chicago paper while abroad and to Methodist publications after his return, his travels forming bases of lectures he delivered extensively during his remaining years. He was made secretary of the American and Foreign Christian Union which supported missionaries in Italy, Greece and Mexico. For twelve years this work engaged him and in 1880 he wrote his history of Italy, a volume of 840 pages. He founded the *Iowa Methodist* in 1882, a non-official Methodist publication, continuing in its editorial management for twenty-seven years. He organized the Clear Lake Chautauqua and was actively engaged in its management until a few months prior to his death. He lost no interest, influence or efficiency as an advocate of good in social or political fields by being a consecrated, devoted and vigorous preacher of the gospel.

MORRIS WILLIAM BLAIR was born in Illinois Military District, (now Schuyler county), Illinois, June 20, 1825; he died near Kossuth, Des Moines county, Iowa, March 6, 1912. In 1836 his parents removed to the land which he later acquired and on which he resided until his death. His life began in most primitive conditions but by native strength of mind and character, and with an unusual intellectual industry he became a well educated man. He had a bent toward historical and genealogical study, contributing valuable materials to a number of publications, notably to the *Genealogy of the Sharpless Family, 1862-1882*. He was appointed an assessor of internal revenue in President Lincoln's administration, resigning 1865. He was the treasurer of his school district for the forty years prior to his death. He was a grandson of William Blair, a soldier of the Revolution, and an ancestor of the sixth generation was a parent of Daniel Defoe, the English writer.

DANIEL ALEXANDER LA FORCE was born May 17, 1837, in Lexington, Indiana; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, March 10, 1912. His parents were born in Kentucky, the father, Daniel G., of French Huguenot descent, whose genealogy presents most interesting features of the contribution of that part of French blood to American life, the most noted in line being Duc La Force, commander-in-chief of Huguenot troops in struggles for maintenance of their Protestant faith. Daniel G. La Force removed with his family in 1843 to a farm in the northwest corner of Van Buren county. They were among the first to settle permanently on the "New Purchase" ground.

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