

Charles E. Putnam

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Times and assumed editorial control which he held until 1875. He served as chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of Iowa in 1872 and again in 1877. He was appointed pension agent at Dubuque in 1874 and held office until after the removal of the agency to Des Moines. He was one of the organizers of the Iowa Trust & Savings Bank and acted as director until the last annual meeting, when he resigned on account of ill health. He became president of the Board of Library Trustees at its organization and held the office until his death. Mr. Rich was a brilliant writer and took high rank among the editors of his day. He was prominent in politics, a close friend of Senator Allison and had an active part in his campaign for Republican nomination for President in 1888. His interest in Dubuque was manifested by his efforts to obtain the best of city government and city ordinances.

CHARLES E. PUTNAM was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, July 10, 1839; he died at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 23, 1913. His early education was received at Nashua Academy, one of the oldest institutions of the kind in New Hampshire. In 1854 he removed with his parents to Cedar Rapids and acted as clerk in a store for a short time. In April, 1855, he went on a hunting trip to Kossuth county, then almost in the wilderness, and remained there three years. Returning in 1858 he attended Western College and taught school until the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted in the fall of 1861 in Company G, Thirteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and was made Second Lieutenant. He was rapidly promoted to Captain and participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka and Vicksburg. In April, 1863, he was made Judge Advocate General for the district of Vicksburg, and later detailed as mustering officer and assigned to the fourth division of the Seventeenth Army Corps, serving on the staffs of Major Generals Walter Q. Gresham, Giles A. Smith and W. W. Belknap. He was in the hardest fighting at Atlanta and with Sherman on the march to the sea. He was on the staffs of Governors Drake and Shaw with the rank of Colonel. At the close of the war he spent a year in Chicago and then engaged in the mercantile business at Mt. Vernon. He was elected county registrar at Marion and served for eight years, and afterward for many years acted as cashier of the Merchants National Bank at Cedar Rapids. For six years prior to his death he had held the position of State Bank Examiner.

BENJAMIN BEACH was born in Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio, January 20, 1827; he died at Muscatine, Iowa, May 16, 1913. When thirteen years of age he was apprenticed to a tinsmith in Richmond, Indiana, and after learning that trade followed it for many years. At the outbreak of the Mexican War he enlisted in the First Ohio Volunteers and remained in the service about sixteen months, participating in the most of the marches and campaigns, and received honorable discharge at the close of the war. In 1850 he removed to Muscatine, Iowa, and opened a store which he conducted until the beginning of the Civil War. On April 17, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, First Iowa Volunteers, was elected First Lieutenant and served through three months' campaign, participating in the battle of Wilson's Creek. He then organized a company for the Eleventh Iowa Regiment and re-enlisted as Captain of Company H for a service of three years. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, the campaign against Atlanta, and was present

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