

Joseph A. Keck

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GUSTAV DIEDERICH was born in Minden, Province of Westphalia, Germany, March 14, 1845; he died at Frankfort on the Main, June 10, 1912. At the age of sixteen he emigrated to the United States and lived for a few years in New York City. In 1865 he removed to Davenport, Iowa, and in 1870 to Avoca, where he engaged in mercantile business. He was first president of the Pottawattamie County Fair Association and held that office for several years. He served three terms as mayor of Avoca. He was elected Representative from Pottawattamie county to the Twenty-fifth General Assembly and served on the committees on Ways and Means, Industrial Schools and Telegraph and Telephones. Mr. Diederich died while on a visit in Europe, and his remains were brought to Avoca for burial.

FRANCIS M. ESTES was born in Andrew county, Missouri, September 3, 1846; he died at Cement, Oklahoma, October 7, 1911. In 1859 he went with his father to Colorado where they located what is now known as Estes Park. He remained in Colorado until 1866, when he came to Fremont county, Iowa, making his home there until 1907. He was a successful farmer and stock raiser and took especial pride in his work of horticulturist. He was a Democrat in politics and represented his district in the Iowa House of Representatives in the Twenty-second and Twenty-third General Assemblies. He was an advocate of election reform and instrumental in passing the Australian ballot law through the Twenty-fourth General Assembly. In 1907 he removed to Cement, Oklahoma, where he engaged in banking, serving as president of three banks.

WILLIAM BREMNER was born in Scotland, May 21, 1831; he died at Iowa City, Iowa, August 29, 1911. His parents emigrated to the United States while he was an infant, making their home for a few years in New York and Massachusetts and finally settling in New Hampshire in 1839, where he grew to manhood. Mr. Bremner studied engineering and later law. He removed to Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1856 and formed a partnership with Hon. W. P. Hepburn, which was continued for a few years. Preferring outdoor life, he took up surveying and in 1865 was elected county surveyor, which position he held for forty-five years. He also held the position of city engineer of Marshalltown from 1863 until shortly before his death. He represented Marshall county in the Eighth and Eighth Extra General Assemblies.

JOSEPH A. KECK was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1827; he died in Seattle, Washington, February 6, 1913. In 1846 he removed with his parents to Van Buren county, Iowa, settling near Utica, on a farm, where he made his continuous home until 1910, when he removed to the Pacific coast. During the gold excitement in the early fifties he crossed the plains with an ox team, and passed a year in California. He was a Republican in politics and was chosen first president of the Fremont Voters' Club of his congressional district. He filled other positions of trust and responsibility and was for several years the president of the Van Buren County Agricultural Society. He was elected and served as a Representative in the Twenty-eighth General Assembly from Van Buren county.

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