

Richard T. Wellslager

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wegian immigrants. In order to educate young men for the ministry, the Norwegian pioneers founded a professorship at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1859. Doctor Larsen filled this chair until Luther College was organized at Half-way Creek, Wisconsin, in 1861, when he was appointed president. The school was moved to Decorah, Iowa, in 1862, and Doctor Larsen continued as president and president emeritus until his death. He was vice president of the Lutheran Synod from 1876 to 1903, and served as pastor at various times and upon important occasions. From 1868 to 1888 he was editor-in-chief of the *Kirketidende*. Doctor Larsen was one of the oldest educators among the Norwegians in America and was widely known as a teacher, pastor and editor. He received the degree of D.D. from Concordia Seminary, and in recognition of his life work was made a knight of the Order of St. Olaf by the king of Norway.

ALFRED HURST was born in Hull, Lincolnshire, England, November 19, 1846; he died at Hurstville, Iowa, March 25, 1915. At the age of six years he emigrated with his parents to America, landing at New Orleans and coming immediately to Davenport, Iowa. Soon after their arrival the father died, leaving his wife and three boys to make their own way in the world. Although but fifteen years old, at the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in the transportation service, was engaged for nineteen months with the Mississippi fleet, was present at the battles of Paducah, Ft. Donelson and Shiloh, and also accompanied General Banks on the Red River expedition. In September, 1863, he was captured by the Confederates and for some time forced into the service of the South. During the raid of Memphis he succeeded in escaping, returned to St. Louis and engaged in steamboating on the upper Mississippi river until 1866, when he returned to his home at Davenport and learned the stone mason's trade which he followed in that city for some years. He purchased forty acres of land in Jackson county suitable for the manufacture of lime, developed a flourishing business and the town of Hurstville grew up about the Hurst quarries and kilns. Mr. Hurst was always active in the interest of public welfare and was twice elected county supervisor. He served two terms as senator from Jackson county, continuing in office from January, 1892, until April, 1898.

RICHARD T. WELSLAGER was born in Washington county, Maryland, April 18, 1834; he died at Des Moines, March 15, 1915. When he was two years of age his parents removed to Richland county, Ohio, where his boyhood was spent working in the forest and on the farm in summer and attending the common schools in winter. In 1852 he began teaching school, alternating that with his farm

work. He removed to Oskaloosa, Iowa, in February, 1855, and served as deputy postmaster and postmaster until 1861. He also published the *Oskaloosa Times* for a year during this period. In 1861 he located in Des Moines and after a few years in the banking business joined Wesley Redhead in founding the book and stationery house of Redhead & Wellslager which continued until 1883. For several years after withdrawing from this prominent establishment Mr. Wellslager was obliged to rest and recuperate. In 1887 he again entered the banking business and continued his interest therein until his death. He was connected with the Des Moines National Bank from 1888 to 1894, serving as president, and in 1895 became stockholder and director of the Central State Bank. He also helped organize and maintained connection with other banking institutions. He was instrumental in securing an order from the Comptroller of the Currency, making Des Moines a reserve city for national banking institutions.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS McIVOR was born in Cheraw, S. C., April 30, 1860; he died at Tokyo, Japan, February 10, 1915. He was a graduate of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., in 1882. From 1882 to 1885 he attended Harvard Law School. In 1885 he began the practice of law in Cedar Rapids. He was associated with the Democratic party and served as city counsel during the years 1891 and 1892. He was prominent in the campaign for Horace Boies as governor and served as a member of the Governor's military staff for both terms. In 1893 President Cleveland appointed him United States Consul General and Judge of the United States Court at Yokohama, Japan. After retiring in 1897 he returned to America and soon thereafter was commissioned by the Educational Society of the Congregational church to negotiate with the Japanese government regarding title to valuable properties owned by them in Japan. Since that time he has been counsel and director of various American, English and Japanese corporations. He was appointed holder of the protectorate over the Chinese in Japan during the Chinese-Japanese war in 1894 and 1895, and received from the empress of China the decoration of the Chinese Order of the Double Dragon.

CYRUS S. RANCK was born in Union county, Pa., March 31, 1845; he died May 25, 1915, at Battle Creek, Mich., while temporarily absent from his home in Iowa City. He removed with his parents to Illinois in 1855, shortly thereafter to Iowa and then back to Illinois. He attended the public schools of Illinois and Iowa, studied four years in the Baptist college at Burlington, graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa in 1871 and was admitted to the bar the same year. He began the practice

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