

William L. Alexander

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January, 1918. After the sinking of the ship the body washed ashore on Islay Island, Scotland, and was interred by the friendly people of the coast. In August, 1920, the body was disinterred and brought to Keokuk and laid away in the family lot in Oakland Cemetery, on September 5, with military honors.

CHARLES W. MILLER was born in Buchanan County, Iowa, December 11, 1861, and died at his home in Waverly, October 6, 1915. When a small child the family moved to Waverly, and thenceforth that was his home. He attended the public school to the grammar grade, but quit and commenced work in a printing office when only a boy. In 1886 he bought an interest in the *Waverly Democrat* and became its editor, and continued as such until 1911 when he sold the paper. He was postmaster at Waverly during Cleveland's second administration. In 1906 he was elected representative and was regularly re-elected at each subsequent election up to and including 1914, thus serving in the Thirty-second and the four following general assemblies. In the Thirty-third he was the Democratic candidate for speaker, and thereafter was recognized as the Democratic leader of the house. He was a member of the Retrenchment and Reform Committee and advocated changes in the state government in the way of economy. In 1904 he became a member of the Democratic State Committee and in 1906 was its chairman. He was a member of the National League for Medical Freedom, was active in its work, spending considerable time at Washington, D. C., in the interest of legislation the members of the league desired. He became president of this organization and acquired a national reputation in that field of activity. He was a talented newspaper writer and a forceful man in every position he occupied.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILLIAM L. ALEXANDER was born at West Point, Lee County, Iowa, September 11, 1843, and died at Pasadena, California, December 1, 1915. He was a student at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, when the Civil War commenced and enlisted as a private in Company I, Thirtieth Iowa Infantry. In September, 1863, he was promoted to first lieutenant and soon thereafter to captain, was aid-de-camp to General Dennis, of Illinois, and later was on the staff of Major-General Woods, of Ohio. After the war he removed to Chariton, Iowa, and engaged in mercantile business. On September 1, 1878, Governor Gear appointed him adjutant-general of Iowa. He was reappointed by Governor Sherman and also by Governor Larrabee, serving until October, 1889, when he resigned to accept an appointment proffered him by President Harrison as captain in the commissary department of the United States Army. In this department he was promoted to major on June 10, 1896, to lieutenant-colonel July 22, 1898, and to colonel in 1899. On July 27, 1903, he was made assistant commissary general

and on January 9, 1905, was promoted to brigadier-general and placed on the retired list. He was held in high esteem by the public and the governors under whom he served as adjutant-general. The United States War Department regarded him as a military man of excellent judgment and ability. He retained his legal residence at Chariton until a few years before his death, when he removed to Pasadena, California.

GEORGE W. SEEVERS was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, in 1843, and died at his home in Oskaloosa, Iowa, December 30, 1916. When a small boy he came with his parents to a farm near Oskaloosa. There he attended public school and graduated from Oskaloosa College, being a member of the first graduating class of that institution. He then took a course in law at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and commenced practice in Oskaloosa. Soon thereafter he removed to Indianola and formed a partnership with his father-in-law, P. Gad Bryan, which continued until Colonel Bryan removed to Des Moines. He then became a partner with E. D. Sampson. He later removed to Des Moines, but in 1885 poor health caused him to go to Wyoming, where he remained three years. Returning to Iowa he again located in Oskaloosa and formed a partnership with Judge W. H. Seevers. Soon thereafter he became general solicitor for the Iowa Central Railway Company and when that company consolidated with the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company he became general counsel for the combined companies with headquarters at Minneapolis. After twenty-five years with these two companies he retired and lived on the old homestead near Oskaloosa, but was retained by the company as consulting counsel. He was a very successful lawyer, standing high in the profession.

JAMES H. WILSON was born in Kings County, New York, in 1846, and died on November 21, 1916, at Washington, District of Columbia, being there temporarily attending a convention of railroad commissioners. Internment was at Menlo, Iowa. In 1862 he enlisted in the One hundred and twenty-seventh New York Volunteers Infantry, and was later transferred to the Fifty-fourth New York Volunteer Infantry, and served until 1865. In 1868 he came to Iowa and engaged in farming in the north part of Adair County, purchasing a farm there. He was an active member of the Patrons of Husbandry and of the Farmers' Alliance, and was devoted to farming interests. He took an active interest in politics, his first public position being that of township trustee in Adair County. In 1894 he was a doorkeeper in the House of Representatives at Des Moines. The following term, in 1896, he was sergeant-at-arms of the House and also in the special session in 1897. When John Herriott was treasurer of state from 1895 to 1901, Mr. Wilson was with him much of the time as an assistant in the office. When W. B. Martin became secretary of state in 1901 Mr. Wilson was made document librarian, and practically built up that department, remaining in it throughout the administration of Mr. Martin and of W. C. Hayward,

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