

Benjamin Franklin Trueblood

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tural subjects. He was a prolific writer for his own publication. Lenox College conferred on him the honorary degree of Ph. D., Geneva Hall that of LL. D., as did also Washington and Jefferson College. He was a man of broad education, a profound thinker, both philosophical and practical. His reputation became national. He was a big man physically and intellectually. For a quarter of a century through his writings, on the platform and in private intercourse, he was a leader and a teacher of the people of Iowa.

CHARLES CUMMINS HORTON was born at Goshen, Orange County, New York, January 13, 1839, and died at his home in Marshalltown, Iowa, April 21, 1916. He came with his parents to Muscatine, Iowa, in 1848. In 1850 they removed to a farm two miles from town. He attended country school, but in 1857 he returned to New York state and entered Delaware Collegiate Institute, from which he was graduated in 1859. He enlisted at Muscatine in July, 1861, as a private in Company A, Second Iowa Cavalry. He was commissioned second lieutenant in August and first lieutenant in November, 1861. In June, 1862, he was promoted to captain, in September, 1863, to major, and in September, 1864, to lieutenant-colonel of his regiment. He was mustered out in September, 1865. He was the last commander of his regiment. His military career was active and he exhibited capacity as a commander. After the war he went to Alabama and engaged in coal mining, but it proving unprofitable, he returned to Iowa in 1866 and began farming, specializing in small fruits and fine stock, especially horses. Later, for several years he was in the abstract business in Muscatine with John Kemble. He served as a trustee of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Davenport, served as a special agent of the United States Land Office, and for fifteen years was a special examiner for the United States Pension Bureau. In 1873 he was elected representative from Muscatine County, served in the Fifteenth General Assembly, and was returned to the Sixteenth. He introduced the bill creating the Institution for the Feeble-Minded at Glenwood. He was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress in the Second District in 1880, when Major Farwell was nominated on the one hundred and twenty-fifth ballot. He was made commandant of the Iowa Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown in November, 1897, and was reappointed at the end of each four-year term, resigning April 4, 1916, because of failing health. He gave the Home a very efficient administration, and was popular with the inmates and the public.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRUEBLOOD was born at Salem, Indiana, November 25, 1847, and died at Newton Highlands, Massachusetts, October 26, 1916. Interment was at Wilmington, Ohio. His parents

were Friends and he prepared for college at Friends' Blue River Academy, near his native town. Entering Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, he was graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1869. The same college a little later bestowed on him a Master's degree. He then studied theology, was recorded a minister of the Society of Friends, and became a professor of Greek and Latin in Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa. From 1874 to 1879 he was president of Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio. From 1879 to 1890 he was president of Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa. The State University of Iowa gave him the honorary degree of LL. D. in 1890. The next two years he spent in Europe representing the Christian Arbitration Society of Philadelphia. In 1892 he was chosen general secretary of the American Peace Society, which position he held until his health failed and he resigned in 1915. He was editor of the *Advocate of Peace*, published by that society during all those years. He was author of the "Federation of the World," as well as many other publications on peace, and translator of Kant's "Eternal Peace." He attended all but two of the International Peace congresses, which met annually, from 1892 to 1915, mostly in Europe, and was at the first Hague Conference, in 1899. He was the leading spokesman and foremost representative in America of the cause of peace, and made innumerable addresses on that and related subjects. He was scholarly and accomplished, spoke French and German, read Italian, had great command of facts and a comprehensive mind. He was a real statesman.

WILLIAM WIRT WITMER was born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, April 6, 1843, and died at his home in Des Moines, Iowa, November 10, 1916. He attended school at Gettysburg College, leaving it to enlist in the One hundred and fourth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. After being mustered out he studied law and was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania. He came to Muscatine, Iowa, in 1868 and commenced to practice law, but became interested in newspaper work. In 1871 he came to Des Moines, purchased the plant of the suspended newspaper, the *Weekly Statesman*, and founded the *Evening Leader*. He made a strong paper of the *Leader* and retained control of it until 1882. He was an able and fearless Jeffersonian Democrat and did notable editorial work on his paper. After disposing of the *Leader* he was instrumental in organizing the Western Newspaper Union, and in 1886, with J. C. Savery, built the Savery Hotel. In 1892 he headed the Democratic electoral ticket for Cleveland, while A. B. Cummins headed the Republican electoral ticket, and their joint debates throughout the state are a memorable political affair. When Bryan ran in 1896 Mr. Witmer was a Gold Standard Democrat, but in recent years he was again in harmony with his

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