

William Wirt Witmer

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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

party. Mr. Witmer was of the character and quality of a statesman. He was truly a successful man of affairs. He had an extensive and favorable acquaintance among public men, including those in political, business and financial circles.

WILLIAM CRAIG WILCOX was born at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, January 16, 1867, and died at Iowa City, Iowa, October 5, 1916. He received his elementary education at Pittsfield, attended high school at Batavia, New York, the University of Rochester, and won a two years' fellowship in political science at the University of Chicago. He was professor in Mount Beacon Academy, Fishkill, and at Mount Pleasant Academy, Sing Sing. In 1894 he came to the State University of Iowa as professor of history, became head of the department in 1904 and dean of the College of Liberal Arts in 1909, which position he still occupied at the time of his death. He received the degree of A. B. at Rochester, New York, in 1888 and A. M. in 1891, LL. D. from Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1910 and the same degree from Rochester in 1913. Dean Wilcox was a prominent member of the American Historical Association, the American Geographic Society, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, and the Iowa State Historical Society. He was an active worker in the Congregational church and closely associated with the development of extension work in the University, for some years acting as secretary of the Extension Division. He was an important factor in the growth and administration of the University.

WILLIAM H. ROBB was born in Union County, Iowa, December 25, 1847, and died at his home at Creston, September 19, 1916. He spent his boyhood on a farm and attended common school. He taught several terms of school in early life. He studied law but never entered active practice. In 1877 he purchased the *Afton Tribune*, then a Republican paper, changed its name to *Independent American*, and its politics to Greenback. In 1880 he moved his paper to Creston. His first wife having died he married Miss Kate A. White, then a teacher in the Creston schools and a daughter of Hon. Fred White of Keokuk County. In 1884 he was elected member of the city council and in 1885, after a remarkably bitter campaign, was elected representative and was re-elected two years later, serving in the Twenty-first and Twenty-second general assemblies. While in the legislature he was the author of a bill to prohibit non-resident aliens from acquiring title to land in Iowa, which attracted attention all over the country. He was appointed postmaster at Creston in 1914. He was a newspaper man and politician of prominence and influence.

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