

Benjamin P. Birdsall

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was promoted to captain and assistant adjutant-general of the Third Brigade, Fourth Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, on February 3, 1865, and served in that position until the end of the war. He was judge of the circuit court from 1869 to 1872, and was county attorney of Madison County from 1891 to 1894. For a time he was professor of pleading and practice in the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, and afterward was president of Des Moines College. He was interested in banking in Winterset for many years. The last ten years of his life he spent in retirement, making his home most of the time with his children in Des Moines. He was a life-long and influential lay member of the Baptist church.

BENJAMIN P. BIRDSALL was born at Weyauwega, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, October 26, 1858, and died at his home at Clarion, Iowa, May 16, 1916. He came to Hardin County, Iowa, with his parents in 1871. He was educated in the public school at Alden, and at the State University of Iowa. He was admitted to the bar at Hampton, in 1878. He practiced law at Alden until 1884 when he removed to Clarion and formed a partnership with C. M. Nagle. The firm secured an extensive practice. In 1893 he was elected one of the judges of his judicial district, and served from January 1, 1894, until October 1, 1900, when, because of poor health, he resigned. He then resumed law practice in Clarion, associating himself with his son, M. F. Birdsall. When Colonel D. B. Henderson declined the nomination for Congress in the Third District in 1902, Judge Birdsall was nominated, and ran against ex-Governor Boies, the Democratic nominee, and was elected by over 5,000 majority. He was re-elected to the two subsequent congresses, thus serving from 1903 to 1909, when he declined to again be a candidate. He then devoted himself to the practice of law with his son until his death.

EDMUND H. WARING was born in Herefordshire, England, October 17, 1826, and died at Oskaloosa, Iowa, October 5, 1916. He attended private schools in England, and after coming to America in 1842 received another year's schooling. He learned the cabinet making trade, but early felt the call to the ministry, was licensed as an exhorter by the Methodist Episcopal church in 1848, authorized as local preacher in 1849, ordained as deacon in 1852 and as elder in 1855, serving circuits in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1857 he was transferred to the Iowa Conference and filled appointments in Kosuth, Des Moines, Oskaloosa, Burlington, Keokuk, Ottumwa, Mount Pleasant, Fairfield and Knoxville. He was secretary of the Iowa Conference for seventeen years and a delegate to the General Conference in 1868 and 1872. Being a sufferer from bronchitis, he was forced to give up active pastoral duties in 1876. He became court

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