

Erastus B. Soper

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committee. He gave the position much time. He became a personal friend of Grover Cleveland and remained on the committee during Cleveland's second term, the federal appointments for Iowa being usually referred to him for his approval. His keen business sense and Yankee shrewdness served him well in business and in investments and he became quite wealthy. He was a heavy stockholder in and a director of the German Savings Bank of Davenport, and was interested in many other enterprises. He kept his connection with the *Democrat* all these years and at the time of the organization of the Democrat Publishing Company in 1915 he became its president. He had been connected with the paper for over fifty-eight years, and was regarded as the dean of the newspaper profession in America. In late years he was an extensive traveler, having been fourteen times to Europe. He was an accomplished, versatile and forceful man.

ERASTUS B. SOPER was born in Pitcher, Chenango County, New York, September 15, 1841, and died at Kansas City, Missouri, March 20, 1917, being then on his way to his home in Emmetsburg, Iowa, from spending the winter at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Interment was at Emmetsburg. When six years old he came with his parents to Jones County, Iowa. He attended Western College, near Cedar Rapids, and with other young men from that college enlisted in the First Iowa Infantry for the ninety-day period. At the end of that time he enlisted in the Twelfth Iowa Infantry as a private and was promoted until he became captain of Company D of that regiment. He saw four years in active service. After the war he entered Cornell College and was graduated in 1868. He remained with the college some time, teaching mathematics. In 1904 Cornell conferred on him the honorary degree of LL. D. Leaving Cornell College he was for a while in Cedar Rapids in the government pension office and also studying law. He was admitted to the bar in 1870. In 1871 he removed to Estherville and engaged in the practice of law. In 1876 he opened a law office at Emmetsburg and removed there in 1879. His practice extended over many adjoining counties and he was regarded as very successful. He became extensively interested in land and also was interested in several banks in that part of the state. He was active in public affairs and at one time, in the nineties, was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. He was a trustee of Cornell College from 1877 and was president of the board for a considerable time. He was chairman of the Shiloh Military Park Commission, and was commander of the Loyal Legion of Iowa. He was a lay delegate to the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1904 at Los Angeles, and again, in 1908, at Baltimore.

MAURICE O'CONNOR was born on a farm near Missouri Valley, Harrison County, Iowa, in 1875, and died at Fort Dodge, Iowa, May 5, 1917. He was graduated from the Missouri Valley High School, attended school a year in Lincoln, Nebraska, attended the Woodbine Normal School and

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