

## Alfred Henry McVey

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the fall of 1865 and for four years was a civil engineer with the Burlington railroad. In 1870 he located at Ottumwa. He became vice president and general manager of the Wapello Coal Company and in 1884 was put in charge of the coal interests of the Burlington railroad, and remained such until his death. He was mayor of Ottumwa from 1880 to 1884, and was elected senator from Wapello County in 1893 and served in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth extra general assemblies. In the Twenty-sixth he was chairman of the Appropriations Committee. On February 13, 1900, Governor Shaw appointed him as a member of the Board of Control, but he declined. He was connected with many large business enterprises in Ottumwa.

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ALFRED HENRY McVEY was born near Washington Court House, Fayette County, Ohio, April 28, 1843, and died at his home in Des Moines, Iowa, May 25, 1918. In 1861 he enlisted in the Seventy-ninth Ohio Infantry and served three years, when he was discharged for physical disability. He then resumed his studies and was graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, in 1868. He was also graduated the same year from the Cincinnati Law School. In 1869 he opened a law office at Wilmington, Ohio, and also edited the *Wilmington Journal*. In 1873 he went to Toledo and became attorney for railroads and other interests. He compiled "McVey's Digest of the Ohio Law Reports." In January, 1884, he went to Des Moines and formed a partnership with C. C. Cole and James Clark. The firm attained prominence especially in fire insurance practice. Mr. Clark retired and his place was taken by Thomas A. Cheshire and the firm became Cole, McVey & Cheshire. This partnership was dissolved in 1896 when Judge McVey formed a partnership with his son, Edmund H. McVey. In 1901 Governor Shaw appointed him to a vacancy on the district bench. He continued in this position until 1906. After leaving the bench he resumed practice and had great success until failing health overtook him. He had a fine home just west of Des Moines and interested himself in fine stock. This home with his valuable library was entirely destroyed by fire a few years before his death. He stood high as a lawyer and Christian gentleman.

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FRANK ALVIN GOTCH was born on a farm near Humboldt, Iowa, April 29, 1877, and died at Humboldt, December 16, 1917. He received a common school education and developed into a typical young farmer. He early acquired the reputation of being the champion wrestler of the neighborhood and in 1899 began to enter the class of professional wrestlers. From then until 1913, when he retired, he had over 150 wrestling matches in different parts of the United States and Alaska, winning all but 8 of them, and they being in the earlier part of his career. In 1904 he won the American championship and in 1908, the world's championship in wrestling, catch-as-catch-can. He was unde-

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