

Frank Alvin Gotch

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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.

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.

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-

feated at the time of his retirement. His weight was from 200 to 210 pounds. He was compactly built, wonderfully muscled, of rare strength, was quick to think, and had great will power, endurance, speed, and skill. He made a fortune wrestling. In the less than a year that he spent in Alaska he accumulated and returned with \$35,000. He invested most of his savings from time to time in good Iowa farms. He was of good personal habits and of good business judgment. He was a director in the Peoples State Bank of Humboldt and was interested in other enterprises. It is said he made more money after his retirement than before. He took an active part in politics the last few years of his life. He had a pleasing and winning personality and would have succeeded in almost any line he might have chosen to enter. He did much to put the wrestling game on a higher and cleaner plane.

WILLIAM E. FULLER was born in Center County, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1846, and died at Washington, District of Columbia, April 23, 1918. Burial was at West Union, Iowa. He came with his parents to West Union in 1853. He attended Upper Iowa University and the Iowa State University, and was graduated from the Law Department of the latter in 1870. Previous to this, in 1866-67, he had held a position in the Interior Department at Washington. In 1870 he began the practice of law at West Union, which he continued, aside from intervals of public service, until 1907. He early engaged actively in politics as a stump speaker and as a campaign manager. In 1875 he was elected representative and served in the Sixteenth General Assembly. In 1884 he was elected to Congress, and re-elected two years later, serving in the Forty-ninth and Fiftieth congresses. He was a member of the Judiciary and other important committees. In 1897 he was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. In 1901 President McKinley appointed him assistant attorney-general for the Spanish Treaty Claims Commission and he served in this position until 1907, when he resigned, after which he lived a retired life at West Union. He was a man of fine character.

WILLIAM W. MOORE, popularly known in late years as "Uncle Billy" Moore, was born in Madison, Indiana, April 1, 1832, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, May 5, 1918. Soon after his birth his parents removed to Franklin, Indiana. There he began, at eleven years of age, to clerk in a store. He followed that vocation there four years, when he came to Iowa. He walked from Keokuk to Des Moines, arriving there May 6, 1847 with only fifteen cents in his pocket. He followed clerking awhile and then bought a drug store on the corner of Second and Market streets. Later he opened a dry goods store on Second and Vine streets. In 1852 he bought the southeast corner of Walnut and Fourth, extending to the alleys east and south, for \$600. Reserving the corner he sold the rest for \$20,000, and on the corner he erected a two story

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