

William Gordon Sears

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ALBERT HEAD was born in Highland County, Ohio, November 25, 1838, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, October 18, 1922. Burial was at Jefferson, Greene County. His father was William Head. Traveling in a covered wagon he came with his parents to Poweshick County, Iowa, in 1855, where they settled on a farm. He taught country school the winter of 1857-8 and then entered on the study of law with M. E. Cutts at Montezuma, was admitted to the bar at Montezuma in 1859, and for the following two years practiced there. He also co-operated with F. S. Cooper in publishing the *Montezuma Republican*. He assisted in raising Company F, Tenth Iowa Infantry, and was elected its captain, being mustered in December 7, 1861. He was slightly wounded at Corinth, Mississippi, October 4, 1861, and severely wounded at Vicksburg May 22, 1863. On recovery he was made assistant adjutant-general, serving on the staffs of Generals Mathias, McPherson, and Raun. He was mustered out December 17, 1864. Soon thereafter he removed to Jefferson, Greene County, and opened a law office. About this time he assisted John I. Blair in securing the right of way for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway across Greene County. He associated himself with his brother, Mahlon Head, in banking at Jefferson, under the firm name of Head Brothers. His business rapidly increased and he became interested in several banks in Greene and adjacent counties. He became the owner of some 6,000 acres of Greene County land, which he developed into farms, and was eventually rated as a millionaire. He was mayor of Jefferson at different times. In 1883 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1885, 1887, and 1889, serving in the Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, and Twenty-third general assemblies, and was speaker of the House in the Twenty-first. In 1891 he was president of the State Agricultural Society. In 1898 he purchased the Iowa Hotel, Des Moines, and for several years before his death, made that his home.

WILLIAM GORDON SEARS was born at Winslow, Illinois, November 19, 1854, and died at the home of a sister at Toledo, Iowa, July 10, 1922. Burial was at Toledo. He came with his parents, Silas and Fidelia Waite Sears, to a farm in Tama County, Iowa, in 1865. In 1871 he entered Iowa State College at Ames and supported himself while securing his education by working on farms and by teaching country schools. In 1880 he was graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa and for a year practiced law at Stanton, Nebraska. In 1881 he returned to Tama County and became a member of the law firm of Merritt & Sears, and practiced there until 1885 when he removed to Sioux City, joining the firm of Lutz & Sears. In 1904 he was elected mayor of Sioux City, and was twice re-elected, serving until 1910. In 1915 he was elected a judge of the Fourth Judicial District, was re-elected four years later and was serving in that office at the time of his death.

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