

John Cownie

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"John Cownie." *The Annals of Iowa* 14 (1924), 471-471.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4882>

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JOHN COWNIE was born in Alyth, Perthshire, Scotland, December 8, 1843, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, May 15, 1923. In 1856 his parents emigrated with their family to the United States, stopping a short time in Scott County, Iowa, but in the fall of that year they settled on land a few miles south of what is now South Amana, Iowa County. At the age of eighteen John began teaching country school in winter, continuing his farm work in summer. For fifteen winters he taught the school in his home district, then ceased teaching and gave his entire time to farming operations. He acquired a large tract of land there which he never relinquished. He became an extensive feeder and shipper of live stock, was a director in many live stock breeders' associations, was a director in the State Agricultural Society in 1896, vice-president in 1897, and president for a short time in 1898. He was considered an authority on seed corn, lectured at many farmers' institutes, and wrote a great amount on agricultural subjects for the public press. He was an agent of the United States Department of Agriculture from 1876 to 1913 for the collection of crop statistics for Iowa, having many observers in different parts of the state reporting to him. In 1889 he established the J. H. Cownie Glove Company in Des Moines, but soon turned it over to his sons, John H. and Charles R. Cownie. In 1896 he was the presidential elector from the Second District, being elected on the McKinley ticket. On the organization of the first Board of Control he was appointed a member by Governor Shaw and assumed duties April 6, 1898. Six years later he was reappointed by Governor Cummins and served to April 5, 1910, when he resigned. For many years he had maintained a home in Des Moines, but always retained his legal residence in Iowa County, where he regularly went to cast his vote at elections.

ISAAC G. SCOTT was born in Boone County, Indiana, August 9, 1850, and died at his home in Walnut Township, Fremont County, Iowa, September 21, 1921. He was taken by his parents when they removed to a farm in Mercer County, Illinois, in 1852. He received his education in the common school. In 1876 he removed to Fremont County, Iowa, and engaged in farming, which he followed throughout his life. He was township assessor for fifteen years and school treasurer for twelve years. In 1912 he was elected representative and served in the Thirty-fifth General Assembly. He was a Democrat in politics.

WALLACE G. AGNEW was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, July 10, 1839, and died at Osceola, Iowa, April 8, 1923. His parents were John and Mary (White) Agnew. His father dying in 1847, he with his mother removed with relatives to Fairfield, Iowa, in 1852. Some two years later they removed to Knoxville where he learned the marble cutter's trade. June 10, 1861, he enlisted at Knoxville in Company B, Third Iowa Infantry. April 7, 1862, in the Battle of Shiloh he was wounded in the right arm, which resulted in its amputation above the

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