

Wallace G. Agnew

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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

elbow, and in his discharge for disability July 3, 1862. He returned home and in November, 1863, was appointed as a deputy United States marshal, stationed at Grinnell. He served nineteen months, then became a traveling salesman for a marble firm. In 1867 he removed to Osceola and engaged in the grocery business with E. Atkins. He was appointed postmaster at Osceola by President Johnson on December 10, 1868, reappointed by President Grant December 11, 1872, and again December 14, 1876, by President Hayes December 21, 1880, by President Arthur December 19, 1884, but was superseded January 13, 1886. He was elected representative the fall of 1885, and was re-elected in 1887, serving in the Twenty-first and Twenty-second general assemblies. President Harrison appointed him postmaster on December 19, 1889, and he served until December 14, 1893. He was again appointed postmaster, this time by President Roosevelt March 14, 1906, and was reappointed by President Taft December 19, 1910, and served until March 26, 1915. He thus was appointed postmaster by seven different presidents and served in that office thirty years.

THOMAS MCKENDREE STUART was born near Williamsburg, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1843, and died in Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 3, 1911. His parents were Rev. David Orr Stuart and Mary Ann (Spicce) Stuart. In 1852 the family removed to what is now West Virginia. Thomas' education was largely acquired by his own application. He enlisted and served in a West Virginia regiment of the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1865 he removed to Iowa, joined the Des Moines Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church as a preacher on trial, and was assigned to a circuit at Sidney. The next year he was at Harlan. In 1867 he was appointed to Elkpoint, Dakota Territory, where he preached two years and at the same time served as superintendent of public instruction. In 1869 he was assigned to Norwalk, Warren County, Iowa, where he preached and pursued a course of study at Simpson College, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of B. A. in 1872, and the degree of M. A. in 1875. He was honored with the degree of D. D. by Little Rock University in 1888. He served pastorates at Monroe, De Soto, Chariton, and Afton, was presiding elder of the Indianola-Chariton District from 1879 to 1882, was pastor at Chariton, was presiding elder of the Corning District from 1885 to 1889, was pastor at Broadway Church, Council Bluffs, was again presiding elder of the Chariton District from 1892 to 1897, following by pastorates at Grace Church, Des Moines, at Beatrice, Nebraska, and at Harlan, Glidden, and Dunlap, Iowa, retiring in 1910 after being forty-five years actively in the ministry, thirty years pastor and fifteen years presiding elder. He was a delegate to three general conferences of his church, in 1884 in Philadelphia, in 1888 in New York City, and in 1900 in Chicago, and was a member of the Book Committee from 1888 to 1892. He was a man of large abilities, original in thought, and a real leader.

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