

James H. Funk

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JAMES H. FUNK was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 15, 1842, and died in Los Angeles, California, March 2, 1923. His parents were Abraham and Margaret (Hutchinson) Funk. In 1850 the family removed to La Salle County, Illinois. James H. attended common school and in 1860 began teaching during winters, working on the farm in summers, as he continued to do until 1862 when he enlisted in the Fifty-third Illinois Infantry. After the war he located on a farm in Livingston County, but in 1871 was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of law at Odell, Illinois. From 1872 to 1876 he was prosecuting attorney, and for seven years he was city attorney of Odell. He also served two terms in the Illinois legislature. Failing health induced him to take up farming again. In 1890 he removed to Iowa Falls, Iowa, where he very successfully pursued farming and horse breeding. Here he resumed the practice of law and for a time had as a partner Charles Hutchinson, who later became a judge of the Polk County District Court. He served for a time as mayor of Iowa Falls. He was elected representative in 1893 and was re-elected in 1895 and 1897, serving in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-sixth Extra, and Twenty-seventh general assemblies, being speaker of the House of the Twenty-seventh. On retiring from active politics he associated with leading men of his locality in building the Des Moines, Iowa Falls & Northern Railway, now a part of the Rock Island system and known as a part of the St. Paul and Kansas City Short Line. Because of failing health he removed to Los Angeles, California, in 1915. He was an able man of affairs.

ISAAC W. KELLER was born in Noble County, Ohio, September 29, 1828, and died at the home of his daughter in Omaha, Nebraska, April 3, 1923. Burial was at Mount Ayr, Iowa. He removed from Ohio to Ringgold County, Iowa, in 1855, farmed for three years, then removed to Mount Ayr, studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1860 and began practice. In 1859 he was elected county judge and served until the county judge system was abolished in 1860. On August 9, 1862, he enlisted as first sergeant in Company G, Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry, was promoted to second lieutenant December 3, 1864, and resigned at Mobile, Alabama, May 30, 1865. On returning home he associated with W. T. Laughlin in the practice of law. In 1867 he was elected senator and served in the Twelfth and Thirteenth general assemblies. In 1870 he returned for three years to his farm. In 1872 he was elected a member of the Ringgold County Board of Supervisors and served a three-year term. In 1873 he engaged in the lumber business at Mount Ayr, which he continued for seven years. In 1879 he resumed the practice of law, which he followed successfully for many years, and the same year he was again elected senator and served in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth general assemblies. He also held a number of town and township offices.

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