

William W. Gist

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ALVA L. HAGER was born near Jamestown, New York, October 29, 1853, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, January 30, 1923. He was with his people in their removal to Jackson County, Iowa, in 1859, and to the vicinity of Langworthy, Jones County, in 1863. He attended common school and Monticello and Anamosa high schools, and in 1874 entered the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, graduating therefrom in 1875. That fall he began the practice of law at Greenfield with his brother, C. E. Hager, and with John A. Storey. In 1877 the firm became Hager & Storey. In 1891 he entered the firm of Gow & Hager. From 1878 to 1882 he was city attorney of Greenfield, and in 1891 was elected senator and served in the Twenty-fourth General Assembly. In 1892 he was permanent chairman of the second Republican State Convention at Des Moines, a few weeks thereafter was nominated for Congress in the Ninth District Convention, elected the following November and re-elected in 1894 and 1896, serving in the Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, and Fifty-fifth congresses. He removed to Des Moines in 1901 associating with O. R. Patrick in the practice of law, and later with Charles L. Powell. He was president of the Commercial Savings Bank of Des Moines from 1911 to 1918. During the World War he was a popular speaker in Liberty Loan and other patriotic work.

SOL E. FIELD was born at Conway, Massachusetts, July 8, 1834, and died at Shenandoah, Iowa, March 14, 1923. His parents were Elijah and Philena Arms Field. He attended common school and academy, and commenced teaching at the age of seventeen. In 1854 he removed to the vicinity of Kewanee, Illinois, where he continued teaching. He was unable to pass the physical examination in order to enter the Union Army until in September, 1864, when he enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. At that time he was teaching in the Knoxville, Illinois, High School, and several of his students volunteered with him. He was honorably discharged December 15, 1864. On returning from the war he followed teaching and farming in Illinois until 1868 when he removed to a farm in Iowa near the site of Shenandoah. In 1887 he was elected representative and was re-elected two years later, serving in the Twenty-second and Twenty-third general assemblies. In 1908 he removed to California where he remained until the death of his wife in 1919 after which he returned to Shenandoah. He was for many years an active and influential factor in the civic, educational, and religious affairs of his town, his county, and that part of the state. One of his sons, Henry Field, became the head of the noted Henry Field Seed Company of Shenandoah.

WILLIAM W. GIST was born at Starr, Hancock County, Ohio, February 6, 1849, and died at Cedar Falls, Iowa, June 8, 1923. Burial was at Marion, Iowa. On March 23, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-

sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out August 15, 1865, at Camp Irwin, Texas. He was graduated from the University of Ohio in 1872, taught for three years in Willoughby College, and spent the school year of 1875-6 in Union Theological Seminary, New York. He then returned to Willoughby College and taught four years, and for one year was pastor of two rural churches. From 1881 to 1887 he had a professorship in Coe College, from 1887 to 1892 he was pastor of the First Congregational church in Marion, and from 1892 to 1899 was pastor of the First Congregational church at Osage. He then returned one year to Coe and in 1900 went to the English Department of Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls where he remained as an instructor until his death. He was chaplain of the State Encampment, Department of Iowa, G. A. R., in 1919, and of the National Encampment in 1920. On June 7, 1923, he was elected commander of the Department of Iowa, was installed, but on returning home died the following day.

CHARLES W. KEPLER was born in Frederick County, Maryland, January 1, 1841, and died at a hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 23, 1923. His father was Conrad Kepler. He was brought by his parents in 1843 to Franklin Township, Linn County, Iowa. On a farm there he grew to manhood, attended common school and Cornell College, and on September 18, 1861, enlisted as a private in Company A, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry. He was wounded October 3, 1862, at Corinth and promoted to first sergeant. He was promoted to second lieutenant February 2, 1863, and to captain January 9, 1865. He was mustered out July 21, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. He had commenced the study of law while in the army, was admitted to practice soon after returning home, opened an office in Mount Vernon and practiced there continuously until his death, a period of over fifty years. For the last several years his son, Louis H. Kepler, was associated with him. He had a large practice, was a man of energy and ability, and was a potent factor in local, county, and district affairs. He was prominent in the Grand Army, was president at Crocker's Brigade, was an active member of the Methodist church, a trustee of Cornell College for a number of years, and was mayor of Mount Vernon at different times.

MONIAS E. BETTERMAN was born in Canton, Ohio, August 16, 1843, and died at Nora Springs, Iowa, December 23, 1919. At the age of sixteen he removed to near Joliet, Illinois, and in 1870 to a farm in Portland Township, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. He was a public-spirited and useful citizen, held many township offices, and was treasurer of the school district for over thirty years. In 1891 he was elected representative from Cerro Gordo County, and was re-elected two years later, serving in the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth general assemblies. Shortly before his death he retired and removed to Nora Springs.

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