

William Henry Fleming

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K, One Hundred and Forty-ninth Illinois Infantry, and became a sergeant. Returning from the war he taught school, attended Lombard College, Galesburg, for a time, and in 1867 established Western Business College at Galesburg and conducted it two years. He removed to Creston, Iowa, in 1870, and engaged in real estate and brokerage business. He also practiced law, being a member of the firm of Harsh & Stafford, and later of Harsh & Higbee. In 1872 he established the *Creston Gazette* and was in active control several years. From the brokerage business he drifted into banking, being in turn president of J. B. Harsh & Co., Bankers, the Creston National Bank, the Creston Loan & Trust Co., and the Land Credit Bank which he established in 1905. For a time he was also proprietor of a general store, and of a hardware store, and managed several farm properties. He gave his time and energy freely to public enterprises, such as president of the Creston District Fair, the Blue Grass League of Southwestern Iowa, the Blue Grass Palace, etc. He served at one time as justice of the peace, was mayor of Creston at two different times, and in 1887 was elected senator and was re-elected in 1891, serving with distinction in the Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-fifth general assemblies. In 1894 he was permanent chairman of the Republican State Convention. He was at different times prominently spoken of for the Republican nomination for Congress from his district, and also for governor of the state. He served as department commander, Department of Iowa, Grand Army of the Republic, for the year 1921-1922. During the World War he wrote and published in the local papers a series of articles on "Will We Win the War?" which were followed later by another series on "Gains by the War." He also wrote for the local papers many character sketches of old residents of his town and county, which constituted a unique and valuable contribution to local history. In 1921 he issued for a year *Harsh's Monthly*, a paper of much interest and value in which he discussed current financial questions, and included reminiscences of local history. He was a man of great versatility, activity, and usefulness to his town, county, and state.

WILLIAM HENRY FLEMING was born in New York City, April 14, 1833, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, October 14, 1923. His parents were William and Margaret (Chambers) Fleming, both born in Ireland. He obtained his primary education under the then new public school system. Leaving school when about fifteen years old he worked a few weeks in a hat store, and then was for one year in the law office of General Frederick E. Mather on Wall Street. In September, 1847, he began as an apprentice in the printing trade with John A. Gray, publisher of the *Christian Intelligencer*. In 1850 he entered the employ of John Trow, a book and job printer. In November, 1854, he removed to Davenport, Iowa, where he worked in various printing offices. Early in 1857 he started the *Le Claire Express*. Returning to Davenport the fall of 1860 he worked as a compositor on the *Gazette* and soon became its

city editor, and in addition was secretary of the Scott County Republican Club in 1862 and 1863. He remained with the *Gazette* until he was invited to take a position in the adjutant-general's office by General Baker. Soon thereafter he removed to Clinton, General Baker's home, but spent a part of his time in Des Moines looking after publishing the records of Iowa soldiers which General Baker was having done by the state printer. In January, 1867, he removed to Des Moines and became deputy secretary of state under Ed Wright, but resigned on April 9, 1869, and became private secretary to Governor Merrill. He continued to fill that position during the administrations of Merrill, Kirkwood, Newbold, and Gear, retiring in January, 1882. In 1882 and 1883 he compiled the data for the "Iowa Historical and Comparative Census of 1880," published by Secretary of State Hull. In 1883 he for a time was financially interested with others in publishing the *Des Moines Capital*, and for several years thereafter wrote for its columns. In 1885 when J. W. Cattell acted as state auditor during John L. Brown's suspension, Mr. Fleming was the deputy. In 1886 he annotated the revenue laws of the state for Auditor of State Brown. In the Twenty-first General Assembly (1886) he was clerk of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In 1892 he was secretary of a commission to revise the revenue laws of the state. In the Twenty-fifth General Assembly (1894) he was clerk of the House Ways and Means Committee. In January, 1896, he became private secretary to Governor Drake and continued in that position during Drake's administration and also during Governor Shaw's administration, or until January, 1902. In 1902 he accepted a position under Secretary Shaw in the Treasury Department at Washington, but returned to Des Moines in 1907. The last few years of his life he was secretary of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa, and was a research worker in the Historical Department of Iowa. He retained his wonderful memory and his clearness of mind to the last. At a later date we plan to publish in the ANNALS an autobiography of this remarkable man, which he wrote shortly before his death.

EDWIN NOYES BAILEY was born at Granville, Ohio, June 11, 1849, and died at Britt, Iowa, December 21, 1923. His parents emigrated with their family to Waupaca County, Wisconsin, in 1854, and he removed to Hancock County, Iowa, in 1878 and located on a farm south-east of Britt. His first work at newspaper writing was as a country correspondent to the *Garner Signal*, then edited by W. C. Hayward, afterward secretary of state. He wrote over the signature, "A-dam Biglyre," and at once gave evidence of those unusual powers as a humorist that eventually made him famous. On November 30, 1886, he embarked in his first newspaper enterprise by beginning the publication at Britt of the *Hancock Republican*. However, he soon sold the *Republican*, the material was removed to Garner where it was used in founding the *Garner Leader*, and Mr. Bailey returned to the farm.

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